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LD111357 [Editorial Report]

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner

A body was dumped from the hijacked Boeing 747 at Larnaca Airport 11 April following the hijackers' threats to execute a member of the Al-Sabah family if the Cypriot authorities failed to refuel the plane, AFP reported. The hijackers had already killed a Kuwaiti border guard on the plane 9 April, though they released another passenger the same day, the agency noted. The latest killing came in spite of an earlier statement by a Cypriot Government spokesman that "new elements" had emerged as a result of negotiations between the hijackers and a PLO delegation, giving rise for hope that the hijacking would end shortly, according to Nicosia radio.

The hijacked plane had landed in Larnaca 8 April after being denied permission to land in Beirut, AFP noted. In Beirut, the Islamic Jihad issued a statement threatening to kill Western hostages in Lebanon if any attempt is made to storm the plane, the agency said. The statement was accompanied by photographs of French journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and U.S. journalist Terry Anderson.

A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry source cited by KUNA criticized Iran for letting the aircraft leave Mashhad, asserting that Kuwait holds Iran responsible for "any repercussions" on the aircraft and passengers. Kuwait's AL-ANBA' claimed that three hijackers joined the plane during its stop at Mashhad, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Afghanistan

"Extremists" using a ground-to-air missile downed a Soviet An-26 "passenger" plane flying from Meymaneh to Mazar-e Sharif, killing 23 passengers and 6 crew members, Kabul radio reported 10 April. The radio also reported that 13 people were killed and 44 injured the same day when armed "extremists" attacked Meymaneh city.

Meanwhile, an Iranian Foreign Ministry communique cited by IRNA "condemned superpowers' formulas" for Afghanistan, maintaining that the "only possible" solution is the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops. The statement termed the signing of the accord "unlawful" and declared that it "holds no value."

Pakistan

The prime minister ordered an immediate inquiry into the cause of a 10 April explosion at an army ammunition dump near Faizabad, in which at least 58 people were killed and some 800 others injured in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Islamabad radio reported. A National Assembly member died in the incident. According to early radio reports, a fire broke out "accidentally" while ammunition was being loaded onto a truck.

However, AFP cited speculation that the explosion could have been the result of "sabotage," noting that responsiblity for previous bomb attacks has been laid on the Afghan secret service KHAD. President Ziaul Haq cut short his attendance at an ICO meeting in Kuwait due to the explosion, KUNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq resumed its missile bombardment of Iran 11 April, firing two "Al-Husayn" missiles at Tehran and a third at Esfahan, according to military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA reported that at least 16 Iranian civilians were killed in the attacks, which followed a lull in the Iraqi bombardment over the weekend. An Iraqi source cited by INA had earlier explained that Iraq was temporarily halting its attacks on Iranian cities to allow "certain good Iranians" to cast their votes in the Majlis elections.

Israel

Territories—The High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction 10 April ordering the IDF to refrain from demolishing additional houses in Bayta, the village where Tirtza Porat was killed last week. The decision, which was reported by IDF radio, followed an appeal by the Human Rights Association on behalf of the inhabitants of Bayta. The IDF had earlier blown up 13 buildings in the village and arrested some 30 individuals, according to Jerusalem radio.

The Bayta incident was discussed during the 10 April cabinet meeting, IDF radio reported, noting that Likud ministers criticized IDF conduct over the matter. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed that Porat was shot by a bullet fired from the gun of one of the Israeli group's guards, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that four Arabs were wounded by IDF gunfire and beatings in Nabulus over the weekend.

On the Palestinian side, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast "call no. 13" to Palestinians in the occupied territories on behalf of the PLO and the "unified national leadership of the uprising." The statement urged members of appointed municipal committees to resign immediately, and also instructed Palestinian workers to boycott employment in Israeli settlements because this will have a "paralyzing impact" on settlement construction. Commending the inhabitants of Bayta for "retaliating against the aggression of barbarous settlers," it stressed the need to "confront the herds of settlers" and "inflict more losses on the enemy."

Meanwhile, the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio called on Palestinians to boycott Jerusalem radio's Arabic service, contending that listeners' contacts with the station unintentionally help its "deception campaign" aimed at depicting the situation as "normal."

Relations With USSR—Israel has threatened to expel the Soviet consular delegation from Tel Aviv if the USSR does not shortly make good its promise to allow a reciprocal visit by an Israeli delegation to Moscow, according to Foreign Ministry officials cited by DAVAR. Israel submitted visa applications for its delegation a month ago, but no visas have yet been received. The paper added that an Israeli official will hold talks with Soviet diplomats in Western Europe this week in an attempt to resolve the issue.

Lebanon

The Amal Movement gained control of Hizballah's "last stronghold" in the south when 30 Hizballah men in Siddiqin surrendered to a surrounding Amal force 9 April, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Hizballah gunmen also handed over their weapons to Amal in Jibshit and several other villages the same day, according to Beirut radio. In remarks cited by Voice of National Resistance radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri viewed Amal's victory as a defeat for the policies of "extremism and kidnapping," and he called for the reestablishment of "genuine resistance" through a joint operations room for all those fighting Israel.

Amal official Mahmud Faqih contended that Hizballah is "finished" in the south from the military point of view, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Amal has asked Iranian Revolution Guards to leave several southern villages, the Voice of Lebanon disclosed. Meanwhile, Syrian forces have imposed tighter control on entrances to the southern suburb of Beirut, according to Radio Free Lebanon, which added that the Syrians have lists of wanted persons accused of coordinating between Hizballah and the PLO.

Jordan and the Shultz Mission

In an official statement carried by the JORDAN TIMES 9 April, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i confirmed that King Husayn gave Secretary of State George Shultz a document listing Jordan's "basic principles" for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. The principles include a declaration that Jordan is prepared to attend an international conference in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but that it will not represent the Palestinian people at the conference and will not negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

The other five principles stipulate: Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is the basis for resolving the conflict; the Palestinians must have the right to self-determination; negotiations for a "comprehensive" settlement can only take place through an international conference; the conference will not be merely "ceremonial" but will reflect the weight of the five permanent Security Council members; the principles of UN Resolution 242 apply to all occupied Arab territories and are the basis for negotiations in bilateral committees.

In related remarks published by the paper, Al-Rifa'i said Jordan's position is not a rejection of the U.S. initiative, but is an affirmation of Jordan's "unwavering position" to dispel "false interpretations or doubts." While the Jordanians and Americans were "not speaking the same language" during their early discussions on Resolution 242, the U.S. position has become "more flexible," he said.

A TASS commentary maintained that Shultz' mission ended in "failure," noting that none of the countries visited by Shultz gave unreserved support for the U.S. plan.

PLO-Soviet Talks

The elements needed for peace in the Middle East are Palestinian self-determination as well as "recognition of the State of Israel and account for its security interests," Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told visiting PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat 9 April in remarks reported by TASS. The Palestinians have the right to self-determination in the same measure as it is ensured for the people of Israel, he added. On the international conference, Gorbachev said it must be attended by representatives of all sides to the conflict, including "the Arab people of Palestine," and he reportedly showed an "understanding attitude" to the idea of a single Arab delegation at the conference.

For the PLO'S part, 'Arafat subsequently stated that his meeting with Gorbachev "confirmed the complete unity of views" of the two sides on international problems, Moscow radio reported. In remarks carried by the radio's Arabic service, the PLO leader described the talks as "very important" and said this was one of his "most successful" visits to Moscow. On Gorbachev's reference to the need for recognition of Israel, a PLO official cited by Radio Monte Carlo denied that this constituted a Soviet request for the PLO to recognize Israel.

Arab League, ICO Meetings

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' chaired the 89th Arab League Council Session held 10-11 April in Tunis, Damascus radio noted. According to Tunis radio, the Council adopted a resolution to provide the Palestinian "uprising" with financial, information, and political support. The Council also agreed to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Algeria in June, the radio added.

The ICO Presidium opened 10 April in Kuwait, according to Kuwait radio, which carried the opening session speeches by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada, and Pakistani President Ziaul Haq.

In his remarks, the Kuwaiti amir called for cooperation for the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia to be carried out in "security, tranquility, and dignity." He stressed that only the Koran should be chanted, only God's rites performed, and only God's cults glorified. The amir referred briefly to the hijacking of the Kuwait airliner and prayed for the safety of the hostages.

Commenting on the hijacking, the ICO secretary general stated, "we unequivocally condemn" such a "wanton outrage" and expressed total support for Kuwait's refusal to yield to "blackmail."

Ziaul Haq confirmed that the Geneva accords on Afghanistan were to be signed 14 April and praised the initiative taken by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. However, he pointed out that the formation of a provisional government in Afghanistan remained a problem to be resolved.

Egypt

During a 5-day visit to Cairo, PRC Air Force Commander Wang Hai met with 'Abd al-Hasim Abu Ghazalah, minister of defense and war production, and with the Air Force and Air Defense commanders, according to MENA and XINHUA.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi visited Sudan 9-11 April, MENA reported, at the end of which an agreement to coordinate internal security departments to combat international terrorism was signed.

Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir ended a 5-day visit to Cairo, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian ministers, according to Cairo radio. The Saudi official, cited by MENA, said that King Fahd is to visit Egypt.

On the domestic front, the Court of Ethics ordered that assets totalling 18 million pounds be confiscated from 'Ismat al-Sadat and his family, who were accused of gaining their fortune through illegal activities exploiting their relationship with the late President Anwar al-Sadat, MENA reported.

Libya

The French ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, Paris radio reported, to hear Libya's "rejection" of allegations by the French defense minister that Libya had 20,000 soldiers and 400 tanks concentrated on either side of the Libyan-Chad border, according to Paris radio.

JANA condemned remarks by U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci in Tunis 9 April, Tripoli television reported. Carlucci was cited as saying that the United States in "still cautious" toward Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as Tunisia is in establishing "good" relations with Libya. JANA claimed that Carlucci's statements, "are merely a new attempt to spoil relations" between Tunisia and Libya.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Meets for 89th Session

Syria's Al-Shar' Speaks

JN101934 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', chairman of the 89th session of the Arab League Council, has stressed the importance of the unified Arab stand, expressed by the Arab seven-member committee in the capitals of the five permanent member states of the Security Council, to support our people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

In his speech, delivered in Tunis this evening at the opening ceremony of the current session of the Arab League Council, Al-Shar' said the uprising is a self-directed revolution designed to entrench the national rights of our Palestinian Arab people away from bargains and concessions. He added: The uprising is also a rebellion against Israeli occupation and an unshakable belief in the inevitability of ending this occupation, no matter how long it may take. The uprising is also a rejection of the Arab situation, which has some sinful and sanguineous aspects. It is also an urgent call on all of us to rectify and correct this situation.

The foreign minister added: Brothers, I do not believe that we, as the Arab League Council, need to affirm to one another the importance of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, as well as its deep, positive repercussions on our joint struggle against the Zionist enemy in the Arab and international arenas. He continued: Perhaps, the most important thing in this popular uprising is the fact that it has exposed Israel's adoption of aggression, expansion, and racism as an order and creed. The uprising is also a loud protest against all supporters of Israel worldwide.

Al-Shar' added: The stone thrown by the uprising's children in the face of the usurping Israeli soldier has hit all these targets all at once. Here, we as Arab states, should emphasize that our support for this courageous uprising, no matter how great, is yet less than it should be. He added: However, what should reassure all of us is that the continuation, spread, firmness, and organization of this uprising has overcome the possibility of circumvention or exploitation by the Untied States and its strategic ally, Israel, with the aim of liquidating the rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Shar' said: By its splendid, continued steadfastness, this uprising has proven it is an uprising designed to liberate, no matter how difficult and remote that may be, and not merely to activate, no matter how comfortable and close that may be. Consequently, we are sure that neither the United States nor Israel can exploit this uprising any more than they exploited the Egyptian ruler following the October war. Al-Sadat wanted that war to be a war of activation, whereas we in Syria, along with the Arab nation, wanted it to be a war of liberation, and also the beginning of the road to regain usurped rights.

He added: In these large conclusions we do not rely on small facts. All of us, along with the whole world, realize that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which almost swept everything before it, turned, thanks to the brave Lebaneese national resistance, into a grave failure for Israel. Our kinfolk's courageous and continued steadfastness in the occupied Golan has rendered Israel's decision to annex the Golan null and void.

Concluding his speech, Al-Shar' said: We hope this Arab stand will continue in the future. By so doing, we will extend important political support for this uprising, which has spared no sacrifices and has ignored difficulties.

Meetings Conclude

LD110652 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers have concluded their meetings, which were convened as part of the 89th ordinary session of the Arab League Council.

They have issued a press statement which said, in particular, that the council discussed the recommendations of the ministerial committee delegated to follow developments in the Palestinian uprising; adopted a resolution that includes immediate steps to provide the uprising with financial, informational, and political support; and recommended, specifically, the convening of an extraordinary Arab summit in Algeria the 1st week of next June.

The council issued a statement expressing its great concern over the fate of the passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft and strongly denouncing the hijacking; reaffirming its condemnation of every kind of terrorism; and expressing its full support for the State of Kuwait in the perceptive and wise measures it may adopt to deal with this grave operation.

Islamic Affairs

Mini-Islamic Conference Session Held in Kuwait

Pakistan's Ziaul Haq Arrives

BK091648 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Kuwait to attend the mini-OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] summit beginning tomorrow. He is leading the Pakistan delegation in the capacity as chairman of the OIC Standing Committee on Science and Technology.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport before his departure this afternoon, he said the meeting called by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, is to carry out a mid-term review of progress achieved by them and to chalk out further strategy before the next Islamic summit. The president said there is no fixed agenda but the meeting may discuss the Iran-Iraq war, Palestine, and the Middle East situation, as well as the Afghanistan problem which is now nearing a solution. The Israeli threat to Saudi Arabia could also figure at the meeting.

Asked if Pakistan would persuade the Afghan alliance leaders to accept the Geneva agreement, the president expressed the hope that they would weigh the benefits of the Geneva accords on which they are agreed. [sentence as heard] As for the aspects with which they differ, Pakistan appreciated their viewpoint. Later, while overflying the territories of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates on his way to Kuwait, the president sent messages of greetings to the heads of these countries, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman and Shaykh Zaiy ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive

LD101436 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1413 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 10 April (KUNA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Kuwait International Airport at about 1430 to attend a meeting of the presidium of the fifth Islamic Conference Organization and that of the heads of the permanent committees. He was welcomed by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabal, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; the ministers; and a number of high ranking officials of the Amiri court, the prime minister's office, and the Foreign Ministry.

Pirzada Condemns Hijacking

LD092001 Kuwait KUNA in English 1845 GMT 9 Apr 88

[By Yehia Mattar]

[Text] Kuwait, April 9 (KUNA)—The secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Sayyed Sharifuddin Pirzada Saturday strongly condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger airliner and fully endorsed the stand of Kuwait in "not yielding to the blackmail and pressure".

In a statement to KUNA here today, Pirzada also deeply deplored the killing of a civilian onboard the Kuwaiti hijacked plane describing it as the "very very serious criminal offence." Pirzada who arrived here to participate in the mini-Islamic summit further said "I hope sense prevails on the hijackers and they realise such dirty steps are detrimental to the interests of all countries". Such terrorism cannot be tolerated, he added.

He assured the Kuwaiti authorities of the full solidarity on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Pirzada hoped the authorities in Cyprus will take effective steps to secure the release of all the passengers on board the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

Referring to the conference here, Pirzada said he welcomed the initiative taken by his highness the amir of Kuwait in summoning and convening the mini-summit of the OIC Bureau and its four standing committees.

OIC conference here will discuss hot issues such as Iran-Iraq war, the popular Palestinian uprising in occupied Arab lands and the Afghanistan problem, he concluded.

Kuwaiti Amir Addresses Session

LD101917 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1612 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Speech by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the opening session of the ICO Presidium meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Kuwait—live]

[Text] In the name of God, God of all the universe: Peace and blessings be upon his truthful and faithful prophet, his family, friends, and all those who follow his path until judgment day.

My brothers, God's blessing, peace, and benediction be upon you.

In the name of Kuwait, I salute you. Kuwait is happy to receive you today, 1 year since the fifth ICO meeting was held here. Kuwait will harbor for you the best memories. It lives with you in an atmosphere of brotherhood and peace. It cooperates with you in order to promote the present and the future of the Islamic world. I thank you for kindly accepting our invitation and for shouldering the biggest responsibilities. Only God can compensate you, and so I pray Almighty God will bless your time and work, and compensate you very well for your work for the sake of Islam and Muslims.

My brothers, during the meeting of the ICO Permanent Secretariat—as well as during the meeting of the chairmen of its permament committees during the chairmanship period—I went to consolidate ties and intensify consultations on Islamic matters as a whole, as well as to activate and coordinate the work of the committees and the specialized organs regarding the resolutions which were adopted at the fifth ICO summit.

Our meeting is a common effort to review efforts already made and an inspiration for efforts to be made in the future.

Regardless of the reasons behind our meeting at this stage of our march, the first line in our meeting is being written by hands very dear to us all, which are the hands of the stone-throwing heroes in struggling Palestine. They are a new generation and a new group being created by the blessed land; a generation and a group which holds their faith in their hearts, their planning in their minds, and their homeland's stones in their hands. The Palestinian cause is an ever developing responsibility; it is a living thing which lives with two lungs: internal resistance and external support. The internal resistance is carrying out its duty as required. The external support remains, however, an indication of truthfulness of intentions, orientations, and aspirations put forward by words. Such an uprising is the voice of righteousness which has broken the wall of silence which the Israeli entity has been trying to impose on the cause. It is our duty, therefore, to look after such a cause so as to not be swept by the winds of politics, to not be lost in the ways of overt and covert plots, and to not during which the enemy's savagery and repression would grow day in and day out. [sentence as heard]

The uprising clearly epitomizes the Palestinian people's determination to restore their rights, which cannot rightfully be disposed, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their land under the leadership of their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

As the volcano of anger has already erupted in the blessed land—after the strings of patience were severed and the mirage of promises was uncovered—Palestine has now become the true measuring instrument for the superpowers' response to human rights.

Brothers, while the Palestinian uprising, through its nobleness and heroism, has attracted the attention of the world, the raging fire of the war between Iraq and Iran is increasing and we are finding ourselves facing an escalation on a front we have repeatedly hoped—and still hope—would be calm. We hope that the sons of Islam will sit at the table of truce and negotiations, and that minds will be free of tendencies toward ideological, political, and military aggression and meet on the principles of cooperation and good-neighborliness.

The experiences of history in our Arab and Islamic world, the decision of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Security Council, and the appeals of the reconciliation and mediation committees between the two Muslim neighbors all focus on a phrase in the book of God. It constitutes a norm of life for us when almighty God says: Reconciliation is good.

Reconciliation is the appeal on which heaven and earth meet and we hope that neighboring Muslim Iran will respond to this appeal.

Although Iran did not agree to receive a delegation consisting of the ICO brother secretary and a Kuwaiti official sent by the fifth Islamic summit, our hope for the future is greater than our regret for the past. Our desire for reconciliation and fraternity is the major driving force of the organization's efforts.

Brothers, Afghanistan has a claim on us that should be discharged in its long struggle to free the Afghan will from every foreign influence. While we welcome the Soviet Union's declared desire to withdraw from Afghanistan, we see in that help toward establishing a regime springing from the popular will to shoulder the responsibility of reconstruction and building.

The stages of reconstruction are linked to the availability of specialists and cadres who are capable of undertaking diversified and complementary tasks, and here lies part of the ICO's responsibility. [passage indistinct]

Brothers, we have always had, and still have, strong faith in the importance of the holy place and its sanctity, which is mentioned in the Holy Koran, stressed by the Sunnah [reference to Prophet's sayings], and has been the object of consensus of Muslims through the centuries. We should all cooperate to preserve the sanctity of the old house [in Mecca] and the holy shrine of the Prophet and ensure the security of visitors to God's house.

Sisterly Saudi Arabia legitimately exercises sovereignty over the sacred places. It is making blessed efforts in the service of pilgrims [word indistinct] and Almighty God. We call on all Muslims to cooperate so that the pilgrimage season will take place in security, tranquillity, and dignity. Only God's Koran should be chanted, only God's rites carried out, and God's cults glorified in confirmation of God's saying: Such is His state: And whoever holds in honor the symbols of God, such honor should come truly from piety of heart. [Koranic verse]

Brothers, I am talking to you and our eyes are on the Sahel region in west Africa; that region where famine has been worsening for years, where desertification is gaining, and millions have died. The next year requires more scientific cooperation between the ICO countries, its organs, and international research centers, in the fields of meteorology, water acquisition, organization of agriculture, and early preparation for possible recurrences of drought and their dangers, in order to facilitate aid and relief.

There is also in South Africa and Namibia another kind of famine which is that of poverty and subjugation through the racist policy implemented against African brothers who are the original owners of the land, which can be considered among the richest by its resources. The Pretoria government is still imposing its injustice on them and remains deaf to the voice of reason and justice. It is not, in this respect, different from the repressive

Israeli policy against our struggling brothers in Palestine. We will support them in their legitimate struggle until they recover their legitimate rights over their land.

These are general guidelines for Islamic action, and the responsibilities of its past and future, with which we aim to cooperate in order to improve the clarity of the traits of Islamic identity and with which the face of Islam will be seen in the contemporary world and future decades.

The best explanation of Islam is given by the image of Muslims. Let us try to make this image faithfully express Islam's requirements of us. This contemporary image is all scratches, wounds, destruction, and sabotage by our hands and our enemies' hands. While I am talking to you now, I know; you know; Kuwait knows, and so does every scrupulous conscience, of the sufferings of the innocent people on the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner who are subject to bloody terrorism and who are undergoing fear and murder without any crime or guilt.

We ask God's compassion for the one who was killed and safety for our brothers, for God is all-hearing and all-responsive.

It is a source of sorrow to have to inform you that a devastating explosion occurred this morning in Karachi [as heard] where more than 100 people fell victim, in addition to numerous people injured. Therefore, Brother President Ziaul Haq will return tonight to his country. He will not be able to complete with us the rest of the meetings. I, in your name and in the name of Kuwait and its people, offer to his excellency and to the Muslim, fraternal Pakistani people our warmest condolences and sympathies. We ask Almighty God to bestow on the spirits of the innocent victims his benevolent compassion, and a speedy recovery to the injured and the inflicted. I know that you are also aware that whenever we have wanted to bring Muslims together in a conference, certain premeditated events have preceded it and/or accompanied it with the aim of affecting it, which is a distortion of Islam's image, a deactivation of Muslim efforts, and a diversion of attention from the major issues for which these conferences are held.

Brothers, I repeat my thanks to you and beg Almighty God to grant us and our homelands safety and success, as He is the guide toward the right path and He is the best of guardians and the best of supporters. Peace and God's compassion and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Ziaul Haq Speaks at Opening

LD102007 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1642 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Speech by Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to the opening session of the ICO Presidium meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Kuwait; Ziaul Haq speaks in English with superimposed Arabic translation—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God Almighty, and prayers and peace be upon his prophet.

Your Highness, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait and chairman of the fifth Islamic summit conference; your excellencies, presidents and heads of governments, and My Dear Brother Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; Your Excellency Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada; Your Excellencies brothers in faith; peace be upon you.

It is a great honor for me to be invited to the beautiful capital of Kuwait to meet once again and exchange views with brothers in faith. [passage omitted]

I have no doubt at all that I am expressing the feeling of brothers here when I say that our meeting, which is being convened soon after the regular fifth Islamic summit, not only expresses the concern of Your Highness to implement the aims and objectives of the ICO in your capacity as chairman, but also expresses the need of the hour. We are grateful for this initiative which Your Highness has taken in inviting our brothers to exchange views on the resolutions which were adopted at the recent Islamic summit conference and to think together about the future method of action. [passage omitted]

Your Highness, dear brothers, the Islamic nation is now standing at the crossroads. We are witnessing a decisive turning point in our fate. Islam, after centuries of being under the yoke of colonialism, is now rising. Technological progress around us provides us with new momentum for development in the Islamic countries. A new spirit is prevailing within the nation. [passage omitted]

This new wind blowing on Islam requires new solutions and new dimensions of thought. There are new challenges which the Islamic world should inevitably resist. In order to confront these new challenges we should have stability and a new commitment to our common cause. The ICO can be at the center of this stability in a rough sea full of changes. We should double our efforts and realize the aim of unity. We should strengthen joint action in the spheres in which the entire nation stands undivided and put an end to what differences may arise among us.

Your Highness, the realization of this unity is bolstered by our realization that the road leading to the solution of all our problems ahead is still long. At the forefront of these problems is Afghanistan. There is no doubt that the problem of Afghanistan is approaching a positive solution. This would not have been possible had it not been for the brave struggle of the mujahidin and the continuous support given by all Islamic countries. Had it not been for the help given by all these Islamic countries, we would not have been able to reach what we have managed to realize until now.

What we have realized is about to bear fruit. It is inevitable here for me to praise the initiative taken by Mr Gorbachev himself and the Soviet Union. Had it not been for this step we would not have been able to reach these results. It is inevitable for me here to express my

admiration for the efforts made by the UN secretary general and his representative Mr Cordovez. The agreement is about to be completed. It can be signed any day. It is very likely that this will take place on 14 April. By signing this agreement, we feel that some problems for which the Geneva process was instituted are about to be resolved. With the withdrawal of Soviet troops, we feel that the path will clear for a climate to prevail which will allow the return of 5 million refugees with honor and dignity.

The main problem which still awaits solution—and I hope that the Soviet Union's promise will be fulfilled in cooperating to solve this problem—this problem is the formation of a provisional government to help Mr Cordovez in his personal capacity, a matter which will lead to the formation of a government which enjoys the confidence of all factions of the Afghan people. If this is realized, we feel that the 1.2 million victims which have died in defending the cause of Afghanistan will not have died in vain since their souls will be the price which have been paid for realizing peace in Afghanistan. Without it, more people will be killed. Calm will not prevail in Afghanistan and the refugees will not return. And if the refugees do not return, the problems and the burdens shouldered by Pakistan will remain for some time. I hope that I am wrong and that the problem will be solved, the Geneva accords will be signed, and a new change will take place in Afghanistan which will include the Soviet Union pulling out its troops and leaving the country as it used to be—a Muslim and nonaligned freedom-loving state—and that the 5 million refugees will return, the refugees who have spent 8 years living a hard and difficult life.

Your Highness, this is not the only problem we are facing. The Palestinian question is still without a solution and Arab territory is still occupied. But what comforts us—if I am allowed to use this expression—is that inside Palestine a new fire has broken out and an element of sacrifice has been created in the territories of Palestine. If this spirit continues and if the element of sacrifice continues, then we will soon be able to return with Brother Yasir 'Arafat to the first qiblah [Jerusalem].

The bloody war between Iraq and Iran continues. Every day causes the death of thousands of Muslims. Your highness realizes that we all, individually and collectively, have tried—at the levels of the ICO, the Good-Offices Committee, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement—to bring an end to this war. But these efforts have not borne fruit yet, I regret to say. But we will continue to make our efforts until the leaderships of both countries reach agreement and make a historic decision to stop the bloodshed. Until that is achieved, our efforts will inevitably continue. In addition to that, we need prayers perhaps more than efforts.

If we can—at this conference and under your able leadership—then we should issue an appeal to stop the war of the cities—if we cannot halt the entire war—which is causing devastation and which is killing thousands of innocent people—children, women, and men. This is un-Islamic and inhumane too, and by this I mean the use of chemical warfare. Those who are using chemical weapons have no element of humanity. I appeal to you, Your Highness and all of you, to issue an appeal to both leaderships to halt this war, the war of the cities, if we cannot stop the entire war, and to ask both leaderships to refrain from using chemical weapons.

The Islamic minorities, Your Highness, are still suffering regrettable situations in non-Islamic countries. But I will not dwell on this issue in detail. Likewise, I will not go into detail about the circumstances being suffered by our brothers in southern Africa and Namibia. The torch of freedom in Africa is still proceeding and we pray to God to enable our brothers in Africa to achieve freedom some day. [passage omitted]

Your Highness, I was touched by your gesture of sympathy with regard to the martyrs of Palestine and the victims of the tragedy which took place in Pakistan today. Please accept my gratitude, Your Highness. In my own name and on behalf of the people of Pakistan I want to express profound gratitude for this kind gesture. It was a frightening tragedy. But so is life. Man sometimes cannot realize the reasons for these tragedies which befall innocent people, as the case was with regard to the inhabitants of Islamabad. But let us pray to God to have mercy on the souls of the victims of this incident, and to give patience to those who have survived and to grant a quick recovery for the injured.

Your Highness, it is inevitable that you know that the days are difficult and that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner is something in which the people of Pakistan stand by you. We are all praying. I personally, and the Pakistani Government have tried but our efforts were unsuccessful. The tragedy is still going on but we pray to Almighty God to end the tragedy of the victims of world terrorism. [passage omitted]

I thank you, Your Highness, for the kind invitation and warm welcome. I pray to almighty God to make our footsteps firm. [passage omitted]

Pirzada Addresses Participants

LD102052 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1626 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Speech by ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada to the opening session of the ICO Presidium meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Kuwait; Pirzada speaks in English with superimposed Arabic translation—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Highness, amir of Kuwait and chairman of the fifth ICO summit conference; your excellencies, heads of state and prime ministers; Brother Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; honorable heads of delegations: [passage omitted]

Your Highness, we were deeply shocked at the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, a matter which has resulted in the death of an innocent passenger. Innocent men and women are still being held hostage. They are surely under much mental and physical strain. We unequivocally condemn such a wanton outrage which is a despised crime. It is, furthermore, an outrage which reminds us of the horror of the terrorism phenomenon which has been shaking [word indistinct] international community.

The ICO has for many years issued resolutions against the hijacking of planes and called for more cooperation between ICO members as well as within the international community in order to combat this phenomenon which arouses revulsion. This horrifying outrage against the Kuwaiti airliner has shed new light on the need to ratify in a comprehensive manner the International Treaty for Combatting Air Piracy. We hope that the hostages will be saved and the hijackers will be detained and punished in a way that would be a lesson for their kind. During these sad hours we would like to extend our total support for Kuwait and its principled stance to not yield to blackmail and pressures.

I must express my deep sadness and total sympathy with the Pakistani president and the Pakistani people and government for the regrettable event which took place in Islamabad this morning, killing and wounding a number of people as well as causing damage to property. I would like to express my deepest condolences to the victims' families. [passage omitted]

There are many Islamic countries which find it difficult to face up to pressures, to our inability to settle our disagreements, conflicts, and different opinions, which gives foreign forces the opportunity to interfere in the affairs of our Islamic countries in search of satisfying their desires to subdue us and achieve their strategic and geopolitical aims.

The majority of Islamic countries are weak in having independent political paths, in being economically dependent on the developed world, and being subject to currents in the international economy which they cannot control. The dominance of forces hostile to Islamic countries in the international mass media also make these forces capable of launching campaigns which aim at reducing our confidence in ourselves and showing a distorted image of our religion, our culture, and our civilization. [passage omitted]

Your Highness, the courageous national uprising of the unarmed Palestinian people which began last December in protest at the degradation they have suffered for dozens of years because of occupation, repression, and terrorism by the Zionist entity, is considered a very important event which led to a qualitative change in the situation in Palestine. [passage omitted]

It is the Islamic world's duty not to let the Palestinian people's sacrifices be for nothing. It is the duty of the international community which recognizes the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle to ensure the withdrawal of the Zionist entity from the Arab and Palestinian territories and the recovery by the Palestinian people of their dignity and independence. Holding an international peace conference on the Middle East has become a matter which cannot bear any more delay. In this respect, the resolutions of the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee which was held in Efrane under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, on 5 January 1988, are obvious. The report adopted by the Jerusalem Committee is among the documents proposed before this meeting.

Mr Chairman, for about a decade, the heroic Afghan people have been fighting heroically against the Soviet occupation and repression, during which they have lost more than 1 million men, women, and children. One-third of the inhabitants of this unfortunate country have been forced to flee and take refuge in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

While the Soviet Union has announced its intention to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, it was not possible to arrive at a final agreement at the last session of negotiations in Geneva because of the lack of agreement on the formation of a temporary government with broad popular representation to supervise the Soviet withdrawal operation. [passage omitted]

Mr President, recent months have witnessed an escalation in the conflict between Iran and Iraq in what has been called the war of the cities, and the reported use of chemical weapons which inflicted heavy losses among civilians. Despite UN Security Council Resolution 598, and despite the intensive efforts of the ICO and the United Nations, there is no end in sight to this conflict which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands and led to the destruction of property valued at billions.

This conference could study and propose new means to both parties to end this conflict and reach a peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

The recent years have witnessed a process of discovering these resources and effectively harnessing them. These years have also witnessed the Islamic countries' separation from the orbit of the colonial powers and their initial steps on the road to drawing their own path as independent states proud of themselves and on the basis of mutual cooperation and Islamic solidarity. We have to continue to move forward armed by our faith in Almighty God and eternal principles of Islam and by our self-confidence toward achieving the noble objective of establishing world peace and security based on the

principles of equality in sovereignty and human brotherhood. I have no doubt that if we remain firm in our faith, Almighty God will bless our collective efforts exerted in the service of our peoples and the service of all humanity.

Thank you. [applause]

Pakistani President Departs

LD102012 Kuwait KUNA in English 1946 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 10, (KUNA)—President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ziaul Haq has left here Sunday for home interrupting attendance of a 2-day mini-summit of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] over the explosion of a military depot in his country.

He was seen off at Kuwait airport by His Highness the Amir Shaykn Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Speaks on 'Uprising'

JN081922 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1750 GMT Apr 88

[Address by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, marking the beginning of the 5th month of the Palestinian uprising; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will, without a doubt, help our apostles and those who believe both in this world's life and in the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse]

Our steadfast Palestinian masses, heroes of confrontation in our occupied homeland, our brave revolutionaries, o people of jihad and sacrifices, with bosoms filled with faith, arms determined on victory, willpower which does not bend or give in, rare consciousness of which we are proud, and full and absolute commitment to the cause of our people and our Palestinian revolution: Your blessed uprising, O vigilant mujahidin, enters its 5th month today to affirm to the foe before the friend, and in fact to the entire world, that the people of Palestine are worthy of life, independence, and their homeland, Palestine, the land of heavenly missions and the cradle of the civilization which has prevailed on our planet for thousands of years.

On this blessed month of your gigantic uprising, which is blessed by our righteous martyrs; on this month of April, the month of glorious Easter and the entry into Jerusalem which, this year, coincides with the blessed month of Ramadan, God's blessing is manifested in the Palestinian people's revolution and gigantic uprising. We remember on 7 April the beginning of your current mighty uprising, which has toppled the balances and calculations in the region and enforced your national cause, the cause of our struggler Palestinian people, on every one who is connected with the Middle East, including superpowers, big powers, and our region in particular. Thus, the U.S. Administration, the ally and supporter of our barbarian Israeli enemy, was compelled to dispatch its secretary of state on three tours to the region to try to abort the results of your general uprising and to save the Zionist entity from a critical dilemma in which your brave uprising has placed it.

Indeed, my kinfolk and beloved ones, sooner or later all the enemies of our people will recognize our inalienable national rights on which there can be no concession or compromise. We will attain them no matter how long it takes so our people and our children and future generations can live in peace, free in their homeland and masters in their Palestine—the land of peace and heavenly missions. Glory to God, peace on earth, and joy to people.

We are saying this while we also remember with full pride 8 April 1948, the day of the Bab al-Wad battle, which taught the enemy an unforgettable eternal lesson. The enemy abandoned its armored cars which were devoured by the fire from the rifles of your brothers and fathers. Those armored cars remained where they were, eternalizing this battle. In April also, the blood of our righteous martyrs as well as their bravery and sacrifice recorded on the rocks of Al-Qastal one of the most splendid epics of martyrdom and self-sacrifice in the history of our contemporary revolution. We remember these righteous martyrs on this month. We rememebr at their head our great martyr commander 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni.

To avenge the Bab al-Wad battle and the honorable heroic confrontation of the Al-Qastal battle, the racist enemy and the Stern and Lehi gangs led by the criminal Begin himself, and on the same day, committed the Dayr Yasin crime. It was an eloquent lesson for us which we have not forgotten and must not forget. In fact, we must learn from it. We must learn from it and we have learned from it a great deal—hence this legendary heroic steadfastness in Sabra, Shatila, Al-Burj, Beirut, Lebanon, and the south. Hence also our decision today in all positions and various arenas: steadfastness, steadfastness, steadfastness, steadfastness, steadfastness, steadfastness, and steadfastness.

The glories we are creating today are not only for Palestine, but for the entire Arab nation and all free and honest men in the world. We are writing modern Arab history with letters of light and fire in defense of the first Qiblah and third holiest mosque [reference to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem], the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, and the place from which Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, ascended to the heavens.

My steadfast brothers on the soil of the homeland, my beloved strugglers, creators of the legend, my kinfolk, all of my kinfolk, in brave beloved Palestine, on these days also we remember 10 April 1973, the day of the martyrdom of the three leaders: the two Kamals [Kamal Nasir and Kamal al-'Adwan], and Abu Yusuf al-Najjar. We remember in this month, April, also the outbreak of the great heroic 1936 revolution. We also remember the day of the prisoner. We remember many of the events with all their impressions. The month of April is the month of splendid revolutionary memories for our people and our revolutionaries. We will commemorate every one of them in our own special Palestinian way by confronting all the tools of oppression, fascism, and racism used by the Israeli rulers, murderers of children and women of our people and kinfolk. Indeed, we will commemorate them in our own special Palestinian way while we are entering our 5th month with unbending willpower and solid determination.

My brothers, my beloved ones, my comrades in arms, and comrades of the march, 4 full months have elapsed since the beginning of the current confrontation, which is one of the waves of your blessed uprising, while U.S. envoys are moving with vigor in the entire region, presenting their plans in the slave market. Their main aim is to abort and contain the uprising, to strike and liquidate the revolution, and to save Israel from its dilemma. What do these suspect and serious U.S. plans offer? Unfortunately, they offer cantons for manpower, for Arab workers, like the bantustans of South Africa. They offer new enslavement for our masses under different slogans and names; from civilian self administration to local rule to sharing roles and Arab-Israeli condominium of our peole. How bitter and painful!

This is why the U.S. envoys declare in the new slave market their well-known noes: no to self-determination for the Palestinain people, no to the independent Palestinian state, and no to the PLO. They are offering an international conference with ceremonial opening sessions under whose umbrella odious suspect deals would be concluded. But let everyone far and near hear me, let those sitting in the American White House hear me, and let the Israeli rulers hear me: Our people declare it with full clarity and strength; they announce it high and loud there will be no peace, no stability, and no security in the region except through the acknowledgement of the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of our free independent state on our national Palestinian soil with holy Jerusalem as our capital.

My brothers and beloved ones, we are not alone in this. We are backed by friends and free and honest people in the whole world. Our just cause is backed by the Islamic, African, nonaligned, and socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR and PRC. We are also backed by friends in the European countries and other friendly states.

It is enough, brothers, to have a quick look at the results of the latest vote in the United Nations condemning and rejecting the U.S. decision to close the PLO mission in New York. Some 148 members voted against this decision, while only the United States and Israel voted for it. Amid this large number of friends, brothers, and allies, we and those friends welcome a just, comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem and the Palestine question through an effective international conference under UN auspices. We welcome this with the participation of UN Security Council permanent members and the parties to the dispute and conflict in the region, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinain people on an equal footing with other parties. This should take place on the basis of international legitimacy and its resolutions and on the basis of what the Arabs have agreed upon in Arab summits. This is to establish and achieve the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights. This is not, as some want to impose on us, to record what those rights are.

O brothers, O beloved ones, O masses of our proud militant people, yes, 4 full months have passed since the beginning of the current wave of your vehement uprising and continuous popular revolution. They are months of pride and dignity. Thus far, our people ahve achieved many sucesses in battles waged against us on more than one front; in Beirut, southern Lebanon, Galilee, the Triangle, Negev, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the United Nations, the United States, and on all arenas of confrontation between us and them which spread throughout the globe; from Cyprus to Hammam al-Shatt, to Europe, to Africa, to Asia. This is in addition to the battles of some brothers.

How many and hard these battles are! They are all being carried out on more than one level and more than one front. Their objectives are the same. Our enemy and its agents want things to be decided as they wish and in accordance with their schemes, aims, and objectives. This after Bilatis [name as heard] and his aides shed as much of our people's blood as they wanted. However, they forget, or pretended to forget, that this land is Arab and will continue to be Arab. Did those Zionists think that repression, siege, isolation, starvation, curfews, encroachments on holy places, storming of cities, villages, and camps, and terrorism can halt the uprising? Is this possible? They are really crazed!

Did those fascists think attacking His Eminence Shaykh al-'Alami will weaken our resolve? Or did they think that detentions and more detention camps and prisoners can stop the revolution? Who can stop the revolution after 22 years of revolutionary accumulation? Did they think that beating children, breaking bones, and aborting women can terrorize the revolutionaries? Will this terrorize the revolutionaries? Is this sensible? They are having illusions. They cannot estimate the strength of our people's determination, our masses' will of steadfastness, or the determination and faithfulness of our revolutionaries. We have the [word indistinct] of Sabra and Shatila.

Three years and four massacres and they continued to be steadfast. This is the faithfulness and determination of our revolutionaries, the defenders of our homeland, who carry the trust, the will of truthfulness, life, and justice on the sacred land of Paletine. This Zionist occupation, O brothers, is just like all invasions which came to our land. Its destiny is to be removed. How? This is through the revolutionary action of our masses and the masses of our Arab nation and through the revolutionary accumulation of our entire Palestinian people whose old men, women, men, and children are rising on all fronts of confrontation and wherever our people are located inside and outside our occupied land. Because our people's will is derived from God, it will inevitably triumph despite all hardship, pain, and sacrifice. God has soldiers who offer support.

O masses of people, you are great, offering continuous sacrifices. Your Palestinian cause, the cause of Palestine, and the rights of the Palestinian people reaffirmed that this cause is the hard figure in the Middle East equation. This was through continuous, creative revolutionary accumulation, through this blessed uprising, and through a ceaseless waterfall of blood. The Palestinian cause is the hard figure, whether they like it or not. Time will be the judge between us and them. A mountain cannot be shaken by winds. Yes, the Palestine question has affirmed that it is the hard figure in the Middle East equation and imposed itself as a just, urgent, and explosive issue on the agenda of every meeting and every summit.

My brothers, O my dear people, O my kinfolk—all my kinfolk, O comrades of the march, O heroes of the revolution, O makers of glory, O heroes, men, and women of Palestine, O our hero prisoners in enemy jails and detention centers, O our brave woudned, O my kinfolk—all my folk in and outside the dear homeland, despite the ferocity and barbarity of the enemy and Kissinger's orders and advice to the enemy government, your uprising is continuously gaining momentum and your revolution is growing. Your revolution has forced the enemy to reveal its real face to world public opinion which is following and relating to your blessed uprising, to the sacred Palestinian stone defying enemy bullets, gases, tanks, and soldiers who are armed with up-to-date weapons.

You have forced the enemy to bring all its regular and reserve forces onto the streets. These are the orders of Rabin—killer of children and fetuses in wombs. He is using armed settler gangs to engage in combat duties. O my brothers, O my kinfolk, you have trapped the entire Zionist entity and engaged them from south Lebanon down to our occupied Palestinian land. Each location has its proper weapon, each confrontation has its proper weapons and innovations. We fight alongside all the free, the honest, the strugglers, and the mujahidin of our nation. We will pursue the struggle along this path, defending the dignity, interests, and future of our nation until it awakens from the abyss to which it has been led by some who will not be spared by history.

O our brave revolutionaries, O our hero masses, O our children, O our women, O our men, the United States is a superpower which has at its disposal tremendous forces. We know this only too well. But the Arab nation's will is stronger still no matter how tough the going gets. The will of the Arab nation will prevail on all those who covet this land—our land, the bounty of this land—our land, the future of this land—our land. The will of the Palestinian people draws from the will of Almighty God. It is the stronger, it is the stronger, it is the stronger.

God's soldiers are those cubs and flowers, the stone thowers who, alongisde the carriers of the RPG, are facing up to the murderers Rabin, Shamir, Sharon, and Shomron and the other ruling criminals along with the enormous American military machine which scares no one. The might of the U.S. weapons is now faltering faced with our people's revolution and children and their resolve. No one can conceal the sun with his fingers. No one can conceal the Palestinian reality facing up to the military clique—the symbol of barbarism and racism in the annals of history which spares no one. They are swimming against the tide of history, we with it. We will therefore emerge victrious, God willing.

Victory is inevitable. It tidings are over the horizon. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [Koranic verse] The fiercer and more oppressive the enemy gets the nearer the dawn—the dawn of freedom, the dawn of the independent Palestinian state, the dawn of the banner of liberty, the banner of Palestine fluttering atop the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem whose Easter holdays we now share. Let's march, O our people, O our children, O our men, O our women, O our elders until the morning of freedom and defeating occupation comes. Ah! Verily, the help of God is (always) near! [Koranic verse]. Revolution until victory.

Your brother, Abu 'Ammar

PLO Official on Request To Recognize Israel

JN101824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Replying to news agency reports citing TASS on explaining the Soviet stand during the talks with the Palestinian delegation in Moscow, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and member of the Palestinian delegation, has said the reported news that the Soviet Union asked the PLO to recognize Israel is absolutely baseless. In fact, he added, the Soviet leadership, during the talks, expressed the need to hold an international conference with the participation of all parties, including the PLO, on an equal basis, as the head of the PLO Information Department put it.

PLO Official on Ties With USSR, Egypt

JN091812 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed Shultz' mission. Hani al-Hasan conveyed the Egyptian view to 'Arafat who is holding talks in the Soviet Union. The PLO considers the talks decisive for the current peace process.

In a statement to our radio Hani al-Hasan said that after Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] visit to the Soviet Union there must be a Palestinian-Egyptian summit to draw up the final view that will guide our moves and which will be the subject of complete coordination with the Soviet Union. Clearly, the PLO attaches great importance to the Soviet stand on Shultz' initiative. I have learned that a senior Soviet envoy will arrive in the region to sound out Arab views prior to the projected meeting between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Moscow on 21 April. According to my information, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze may personally make such visits himself. I have also learned that Egypt has invited him.

Hani al-Hasan said he stressed to President Mubarak the need for Egypt's participation in a joint Arab delegation that includes Jordan, the PLO, and Egypt and—if they want to participate—Syria and Lebanon. Hani al-Hasan said: I informed the president that Egypt is a cornerstone in Palestinian moves and Egypt's participation must be full rather than a mere formality, because Egypt is legally responsible for the Gaza Strip.

Within such a framework the PLO is concentrating its Arab contacts on the Arab states including Egypt in a joint Arab delegation and that is rejected by Israel, Hani al-Hasan said. We must break the Israeli will. We are also prepared to talk to Syria on the joint delegation.

What was Egypt's reply? Hani al-Hasan said: I put forward to President Mubarak this point and the need for Egypt to accept it. However, as a major state in the region Egypt looks to what will be asked of it and does not look to a role it imposes. He added: We are seeking to develop a situation that paves the way for convening the Riyadh ordinary Arab summit and Egypt's presence in such a summit is essential.

With regard to Jordan the PLO wants to open up the coordination file with Jordan after Abu 'Ammar's visit to the Soviet Union and after drawing up the common points shared by the Soviet Union and the PLO. Hani al-Hasan said: What is required is that we create an Arab front, not only a Jordanian-Palestinian front.

With regard to 'Arafat accepting King Husayn's invitation, Hani al-Hasan said: After Abu 'Ammar's return from Moscow a PLO committee will go to Jordan to explore the situation and to pave the way for a favorable climate. We do not want a meeting that ends in disagreement. Indeed, it is better not to hold a meeting than hold a meeting that does not achieve agreement.

Hani al-Hasan said: I personally believe we and Jordan and the Arab brothers can work out a common perception.

Palestinians Asked To Boycott Israeli Radio

JN101150 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1043 GMT 10 Apr 88

["A Call for Boycotting the Zionist Enemy Radio"]

[Text] O brother strugglers: Some of those who prepare the programs of the Zionist enemy Arabic radio lay traps for some of our kinfolk. In a bid to delude people into believing that life is normal in Palestine and with the Palestinians, those supervising the Zionist enemy radio resort to preparing a series of program entitled "Tackling People's Criminal Cases."

Some of our kinfolk, out of goodwill, telephone those preparing these programs and explain their complaints to them. Their voices, names, and sometimes their laughter is transmitted through the Zionist enemy radio, thus unintentionally contributing to the deception campaign propagated by the Zionist enemy radio. Some of these people, on the pretext of sportsmanship and a desire to compete with other sports clubs, participate in programs prepared by the Zionist radio to deceive public opinion and depict the situation as if it were normal in Palestine. Some brothers contribute to other programs like "Listeners Requests" and send letters to the radio requesting that certain songs be broadcast.

This not only serves the enemy's game to deceive public opinion into believing that life is so normal in Palestine that people contribute to the raido by sending letters asking that emotional and other songs be broadcast. This also provides cover for the most dangerous program broadcast by the Zionist enemy radio; namely, the "Listeners Requests" program through which the enemy sends its messages to its agents and spies.

Dear brothers, O our kinfolk in Palestine, it is unbecoming of us to ask policemen and municipal council members to resign and fail to ask that the enemy radio be boycotted and that dealing with it be stopped, either through communicating complaints, through holding telephone conversations, through contributing to sports programs, or through contributing to the variety programs or the "Listeners Requests" programs.

O, our kinfolk in Palestine, boycott the Zionist enemy radio. This enemy, with its occupation, its repression machine, its Army and policemen, its intelligence organ

and radio, is our enemy, the enemy of the Palestinian Arab people, the enemy of their national identity, and the enemy of our Arab nation.

The Al-Quds radio staff has great confidence that our kinfolk will respond favorably and will strictly implement the call to boycott this radio and will cease to participate in its programs, which serve the Zionist authorities. We have great faith that our people are fully aware of the means of deception used by those supervising the Zionist enemy radio. God is with us. Victory is near at hand. Let us remain together on the road of liberating land and man. AL-QUDS Palestinian Arab Radio on the road of liberating land and man, test transmission.

Reportage on 'Arafat Visit to the USSR

For Soviet reportage on Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Moscow and coverage of his meetings and press conference there, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 8 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid on Shultz Mission, Peace

NC090018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt is eager to achieve peace and is determined to pursue any approach leading to a just and honorable peace in the region. He affirmed that Egypt is walking the path leading to a just and honorable peace.

In a statement to Egyptian television, the foreign minister said that the U.S. endeavors in the region constitute a first step toward reaching a comprehensive solution, as opposed to earlier U.S. efforts which preferred a transitional solution and deferred a comprehensive one. The foreign minister noted that Egypt is waging the battle of peace as honorably and couragously as it fought the battle of war. Egyptian policy is very clear and is defending Palestinian rights with all its power, he said.

'Abd al-Majid then asked: Should we shut the door, close the whole file, and declare our rejection? He added: We must find a way to peace.

Regarding the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Dr 'Abd al-Majid underlined Egypt's strong condemnation of the Israeli practices in the occupied territories. He said that Israel must understand the lesson of the uprising and realize that its occupation of the Palestinian lands for more than 20 years could not break the Palestinian resistance. The foreign minister emphasized that Israel must understand that only peaceful solutions will be effective and that it cannot have peace and land at the same time, as land must be exchanged for peace.

Regarding Secretary of State George Shultz' current tour of the region, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the secretary's recent meeting with the PNC members and the fact that he listened to their views, represent a positive development. He added that the Palestinian uprising has imposed itself on the situation. This is a fundamental and positive development that must be followed up, as President Mubarak said recently, Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out.

As for the convening of a special Arab summit to discuss the Palestinian uprising, 'Abd al-Majid said: An Arab summit, particularly a special one, must be well prepared for it to have a chance to succeed. The current call to convene an Arab summit in its present form to discuss the Palestinian issue would make it very difficult for it to achieve the desired goal.

'Abd al-Majid added: If the purpose of the summit is to abort the current U.S. efforts, then this is something which Egypt does not want. The Fes summit approved the achievement of a peaceful settlement and, consequently, all Arab states are committed to peace.

Concerning Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's recent moves, the Egyptian foreign minister said: The question of the Libyan leadership is a puzzling affair. The credibility gap is widening between us.

Commenting on the Tabah issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt's right to Tabah is absolutely clear and supported and confirmed by historical documents. 'Abd al-Majid asked why Israel withdrew from Tabah in 1957 and did not cling to it as happened in 1982. He explained in this connection that this proves the weakness of the Israeli position. He pointed out that the panel members' recent on-site visit to the area was very useful.

The foreign minister disclosed that the court ruling will be issued in August or September, adding that Egypt has conducted research and a study of all aspects of the issue.

Saudi Information Minister on Ties, Missiles

NC082333 Cairo MENA in English 1935 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, April 8 (MENA)—Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said in a television interview tonight that King Fahd has accepted President Husni Mubarak's invitation to visit Egypt and that the date of the visit would be fixed shortly.

On the Egyptian-Saudi information talks, Al-Sha'ir said: "We discussed many information issues, including new dispatches by satellites."

On the Saudi Chinese missiles question, the Saudi information minister said that the media fanfare over this issue is artificial, and that these missiles are aimed at defending Moslems' shrines.

He noted that the missiles do not carry nuclear heads. He underlined that Saudi Arabia, which is not an agressive state, calls for fraternity and tolerance.

Prime Minister Sidqi Returns From Khartoum

NC110025 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2308 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo shortly after midnight tonight following a short visit to Sudan. During the visit, Dr Sidqi headed the Egyptian side at the Egyptian-Sudanese Higher Committee meetings in Khartoum.

While in Sudan, Prime Minister Sidqi handed Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani a message from President Husni Mubarak dealing with the latest developments in the African and Arab arenas.

In a statement upon his arrival, Dr Sidqi disclosed that he had brought with him a message from Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani to President Husni Mubarak replying to Mubarak's message which he had delivered to Al-Mirghani during his visit to Sudan.

Dr Sidqi described his visit as successful by all standards and as having achieved positive results. He also praised the reception he and his accompanying delegation were accorded during their visit to Sudan, which was undertaken as a result of the convening of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese Higher Committee's second session. The prime minister further lauded the welcome the Egyptian delegation was given at the official and popular levels. He pointed out that the Egyptian delegation had held meetings with all of the parties in Sudan.

Dr Sidqi noted that the joint higher committee had held two meetings, at the conclusion of which three main documents were signed. He disclosed that the first deals with numerous aspects of cooperation in the agricultural, economic, tourism, and foreign policy fields, as well as coordination between the two countries' internal security departments in combating narcotics and international terrorism.

The prime minister revealed that the second agreement deals with cooperation between both countries' youth, and the third document is concerned with the trade protocol for 1988 and 1989.

Dr Sidqi said that the three documents represent a major step on the path of bolstering Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation in the various political, economic, cultural, scientific, and other fields.

The prime minister noted that a quasi-political meeting had been held this evening, which was tantamount to a gesture of greeting to Egypt. During the meeting, speeches were exchanged which expressed the two fraternal countries' eagerness to promote cooperation between them. He said: This made us feel that Sudan truly represents a strategic extension for Egypt as Egypt represents a strategic extension for Sudan.

Information Minister on Relations With Libya

NC100910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Apr (MENA)—Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that Egypt desires to observe good neighborly relations with Libya. He noted, however, that all previous Egyptian experiences in trying to improve relations have proved Libya's lack of credibility in this regard.

In a statement to the Sudanese newspaper AL-AYYAM, Safwat al-Sharif declared that announcements pertaining to the withdrawal of Libyan forces from the border signify nothing, because there had been no troop concentrations on the border between the two countries. He remarked that Egypt has not agreed to open its borders and remove controls because that would allow infiltration of terrorists.

He added that Egypt supports any positive proposal to improve relations between the two countries, provided this is done with earnestness and credibility, something lacking in all previous experiences.

The Egyptian information minister noted that while Libya has announced it was halting media campaigns against Egypt, Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's anti-Egyptian statements continue.

In conclusion, Al-Sharif said that despite all these experiences, Egypt is willing to respond to any proposal to improve relations provided this is done on clear and definite principles and truth and commitment are observed in any agreement to this effect.

Papers View U.S. Role in Peace Process

Discussion of Resolution 242

JN081149 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Return to the Source"]

[Text] UN Security Council Resolution No 242, issued some 20 years ago, has once again become a basic axis of all moves to settle the issue. The U.S. formula which is currently under discussion and which has attracted the attention of all the parties at this stage, calls for an international conference to be attended by all the parties concerned and by the five UN Security Council permanent members on the basis of this resolution, Resolution No 338, and the principle of land for peace and attended.

Many years have been spent in discussions and controversies over Resolution No 242. The PLO has dreaded explicitly proclaiming its stand on the resolution because it is defective and ambiguous although the PLO has recognized the UN resolution as a whole. The resolution is defective because it approaches the issue as a refugee issue and ambiguous because it allows different interpretations with respect to withdrawals. The Israeli side continues to abide by an interpretation of this resolution giving it the right to choose from which territories it should or should not withdraw.

The Likud, represented by Shamir, remains committed to the viewpoint of his predecessor, Begin, that this choice was really made when the Sinai was returned in exchange for the peace teaty, that there is no longer any choice with respect to the Golan Heights and the West Bank, and that the U.S. interpretation during the time of

Carter and his secretary of state supported this Israeli viewpoint. This is an incorrect assumption, which Vance himself recently rebutted when he said that Resolution No 242 meant withdrawal from all the occupied territories in exchange for the peace arrangements.

A few days ago, another U.S. official raised this issue once again by proceeding in the same direction, namely, that the correct interpretation of Resolution No 242, which he described as a difficult problem of interest to all the parties, stipulates withdrawal from the Arab territories and the attainment of security for Israel. This is the same old U.S. concept, which says that in exchange for security for Israel, minor border adjustments will need to be carried out.

But as long as the call for an international conference is linked to the acceptance of these two resolutions and of the principle of land in exchange for peace, Washington should accompany its initiative with a definite and official declaration stating this interpretation of Resolution No 242, given that this interpretation is the real motive for its efforts, which are currently embodied in its initiative, and given that its acceptance as such by all the parties in similar declarations is the correct path for a step forward. The opposite is also true.

Shultz' 'Contradictory' Stand

JN081553 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
6 Apr 88 p 5

[Editorial: "No Chance To Impose Any Preconditions"]

[Text] The statements George Shultz made to reporters, or those attributed to him, following his talks with the Israeli leaders on the eve of his arrival in Cairo today, call for surprise if proven true. They reveal a conflicting and contradictory U.S. stand and cast doubt on Washington's real intentions and the seriousness of its desire to restore peace to the Middle East.

This contradiction is evident in Shultz' statement that his country opposes the idea of establishing a Palestinian state and rejects any attempt to force Israel to return to the pre-June 1967 borders, although shortly before that he stressed that Security Council Resolution No 242 is the basis for any settlement. This resolution, as everybody knows and as its drafter the British representative at the Security Council admits, calls on Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories Israel occupied by force in that war.

We demand that the U.S. Secretary of State, who is on his third tour of the region in a short period of time, provide a frank and explicit explanation of his statements to reporters in Tel Aviv. If these statements turn out to be true, they will destroy the possibility of reaching a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue, which is the core of what has happened and is happening in the Middle East. There is no point in holding talks between the Arab and Israeli sides, whether under the umbrella of an international conference or in any other form of negotiations, so long as the United States is setting preconditions in favor of Israel.

These conditions affect the essence of the conflict and drive a wedge that destroys the bases of the talks before they begin. Accordingly, no Arab will agree to relinquish any land that was forcibly occupied by the Israeli troops, nor will he agree to see the Palestinian people remain homeless throughout their lives and be satisfied with watching the aggressors enjoy their usurped territory from far away.

The first condition for the success of any international talks is that they should be conducted on a just basis without any preconditions by any party, and that all participants should adopt impartial stands, especially if these stands constitute a flagrant violation of all international laws which stress the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' territory after occupying it through brute force.

'Some Progress' From Visit

JN091955 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
8 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The Importance of the Continuation of Washington's Peace Endeavors"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has asked U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to continue his efforts to bring about the convening of an international peace conference. This request has been well-received by the U.S. Secretary of State who said following his talks with the president that he will continue his efforts in this direction.

There is no doubt that the request made by the President that Shultz continue the efforts that he started more than 6 weeks ago, the three trips that he has recently paid to the Middle East region to hold discussions with the parties concerned on the new U.S. initiative, and the proposals contained in it to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, all serve to keep the wheel of peace efforts turning in order to prevent a return to the previous standstill—a situation which maintains tension in the region and might bring about a reescalation of the conflict, with all the dangerous consequences that that entails.

If it is to lead to the desired result, the peace process and the complications entailed in such a process demand continuous efforts and unlimited patience. Despite the fact that Israeli prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir continues to insist rejecting any proposal that seeks to bring about an international Mideast peace conference, political observers and analysts have agreed that some progress has been made through discussions that the U.S. Secretary of State has held during his trips. And this is a good reason for Shultz to continue his efforts tirelessly until he can persuade the Israeli side to accept the principle of an international conference.

Cairo is aware of the importance of continuing all efforts toward reestablishing peace in the region, as this peace would serve the interests of all peoples in the region. Furthermore, the reestablishment of peace will also enable the peoples of this region to direct their energies and capabilities toward further development and improving their standards of living. Hence, Egypt's eagerness to push the American side to continue its efforts, considering that it is a committed partner in peace endeavors.

We do not deny the difficulty of carrying out such a mission, particularly in a U.S. election year and in light of the current Israeli stand which requires enormous efforts to bring it back to its senses.

MENA Cites Paper on Airliner Hijacking

NC110149 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH strongly denounces the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, describing the hijackers as mercenary adolescents who disregard the higher Arab interests. The paper says that this operation has cast a cloud on the magnificent Arab struggle which has won the Arabs the respect of friend and foe alike, and has contributed to transforming the image of the Arab struggler in the eyes of the world as well as convincing everyone of the need to end the Israeli occupation and to exchange land for peace.

In a commentary to be published in its Monday issue, the paper says there is no doubt that, despite the hijackers' declared demand for the release of their civilian colleagues being held in Kuwaiti prisons for causing explosions at the U.S. and French Embassies and the airport, the operation has adversely affected the bright and honorable image of the legitimate struggle carried out by the heroes of the revolution-of-stones in the occupied territories.

The paper points out that this operation has given the Zionist media a golden opportunity, by exploiting the Arabic conversations among the hijackers, to reiterate their cliches which brand Arabs as terrorists. This operation has also provided a "suspect" cover for the criminal actions which the Zionist occupation authorities are committing in the occupied territories, beginning with the burying alive of Palestinians and ending with the blowing up of houses over their innocent occupants.

The paper concludes its commentary by expressing its confidence that the real Arab tide of struggle, which has been generated by the bitter situation experienced by the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, will eventually triumph and make everybody deal with the solid facts so that stability may be restored and a just and comprehensive peace may be achieved in the region.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Opens Scientific Exhibition

LD102119 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr [April] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has opened the scientific and technical exhibitions held by the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Science as well as the Al-Fatih Medical University and the section of geography at the Department of Humanities at Al-Nasir University amidst the festivities of the students celebrating the 12th anniversary of students 7th April Revolution and amidst the freedom festivities.

The students masses gave a tumultuous welcome to the leader of the revolution and gathered around him chanting Long Live the Great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader asserting the student masses determination to continue with the revolutionary struggle so as to consolidate freedom and realise the objectives of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution for liberation and unity.

The student masses saluted the maker of the era of the masses and liberator of mankind from the shackles of slavery and reaffirmed in their chants their commitment to the people's power and total readiness to defend and propagate it.

The leader of the revolution toured various sections of the exhibitions where he was briefed on them and the objective of holding such events.

The exhibitions consist of various sections of science of food production, animal raising, home economics, economy of agriculture, gardening, harvest and protection, agronomy, etc.

The students presented the leader with a document of loyalty and commitment reaffirming their adherence to the path of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, the path of struggle for Arab unity and liberation of usurped land and the support of freedom everywhere in the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets French Union Figure

LD110240 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpts] This evening, the brother leader of the revolution received Mr Augustin Edouard, secretary general of the union of miners in France and member of the International Federation of Miners. [passage omitted]

The secretary general of the union of miners in France condemned the Western mass media's stand toward the Great Jamahiriyah and said that his visit had enabled him to see clearly the real changes underway in Libyan Arab society.

Al-Qadhdhafi Aide on Release of Detainees

PM081331 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
30 Mar 88 p 11

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi's "personal envoy" Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zawi by Talhah Jibril in Rabat; date not specified]

[Text] [Jibril] In your opinion, what is the significance of the recent decisions made in Libya to free political prisoners?

[Al-Zawi] These decisions were made on 2 March, which coincided with the anniversary of people's power. Therefore it would have been inappropriate to hand over power to the people while the country was filled with political prisons. So the decision was made to release political prisoners, including those who had hatched military plots against the regime. The colonel classified them into two groups:

The first conspired prior to the rise of people's power in 1977. It is considered that their plots had some logic to them, because they believed that what happened in 1969 (when Colonel al-Qadhdhafi assumed power) was merely a military coup; the second conspired prior to the rise of the people's power and was thought by Al-Qadhdhafi to have been hasty and to have conspired before the scene became clear to them. They are divided into two groups: One sought to organize operations to assassinate the colonel—and there has been a decision to pardon them; and the other conspired against the people's power, including elements who acted locally and others who conspired with foreigners. The latter plots are considered to be high treason. So just a few will be left in the prisons, meaning those who conspired with foreigners—they number 100 detainees.

[Jibril] So they have not been released?

[Al-Zawi] They have not been released. However, their numbers are declining, following the formation of committees to investigate each case.

[Jibril] There are those who think that the decision to release the political detainees was made very late. Do you agree with this view?

[Al-Zawi] Of course there are those who think that the decision was made late, and there are some people in Libya who say it was made too early. In general, our joy was tremendous when the decision was issued. Naturally, the decision to abolish the emergency courts and demolish the prisons is not enough on its own, since it must be linked to freedom of opinion, action, and movement. Therefore the restrictions on the freedom of opinion were lifted, and it became possible for any Libyan citizen to express his opinions in complete freedom without question, with the proviso that this is done through the people's congresses.

[Jibril] There are reports that a meeting took place between Dr Mahmud al-Maghribi and 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Huni (opposition figures) in Algeria during which the talk centered on the release of political detainees as a step paving the way for the opposition's return. Accordingly, the recent measures were taken. How true is that?

[Al-Zawi] I cannot confirm or deny the fact of the meeting. However, what is certain is that the matter is greater by far than a request made by an opposition based abroad, because it is basically linked to the freedom of opinion, action, and movement. An opposition member may ask for the release of whoever he wants, but he would never touch on the issue of those forbidden to travel. The decisions, however, cover all of them because the aim is the victory of freedom and its confirmation.

[Jibril] What has happened with respect to 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Huni (Revolution Command Council member)? Will he return?

[Al-Zawi] Officially we do not have any information, but the Libyan people in the streets are saying that he will return, accompanied by a group of people who were in contact with him.

[Jibril] What are the repercussions of the decision on Libya's relations with the states sheltering opposition members?

[Al-Zawi] I believe that, following the adoption of these decisions, no opposition member any longer has cause to be in opposition, or remain abroad. If internal opposition is allowed, then what is the justification for remaining abroad? With respect to the states sheltering opposition members, the pretext for this asylum has also gone, because these opposition members went to those states on the grounds that they were persecuted because of their opinions. Consequently, when this persecution faded away it became necessary to return. It is up to them: If they prefer to stay abroad or not, we no longer have any problems with them following the freedoms and guarantees we have implemented for them.

[Jibril] I am raising this question bearing in mind the issue of the Libyan pilots seeking asylum in Egypt?

[Al-Zawi] The asylum sought by some Libyan military pilots in Egypt occurred prior to the promulgation of this decision. In any country, whatever the means and the guarantees of freedom, there is a group of people who for some reason or interest do not want to remain with their nation. However, following the recent decisions no Libyan can seek refuge in another state on the pretext that he is being persecuted for his opinions. If anyone wants to remain in Cairo, because it is better than Tripoli, or to live in London, because he prefers it to Banghazi, then he is free to do so.

But, with respect to the members of the Armed Forces who have conspired and have been released, and those forbidden to travel because they have not performed their military service, then the way is open before them; and they have the right to travel outside Libya and not to return. The important thing is for them to be free to make their decision; and we will not prevent anyone from traveling, even if all Libyans were to leave.

[Jibril] Do opposition members have the right to return to take up opposition, following the recent decisions?

[Al-Zawi] The recent decisions guarantee amnesty for everyone in the opposition groups. With respect to those who have been given the opportunity to return to their homeland, they have the right to defend their views and convictions inside the people's congresses and through the media, even to write on the walls—if they so wish. But they ought to bear two things in mind: first, not to establish underground organizations to overthrow the ruling government; second, not to resort to arms to impose their opinions; even if some were to resort to underground organizations and to the use of weapons, they will not be treated as before, nor sentenced to death through an emergency court; and all the detainees will appear before the people's court appointed by the people's congresses.

[Jibril] The question now is: Have some opposition members returned in response to the recent decisions?

[Al-Zawi] Many contacts have taken place in the first few days. Many people, whether in Cairo, the Arab states, or in Europe, have expressed a desire to return. I have personally got in touch with some friends, and some friends have got in touch with me, and they want to return. Matters require some time, so that everyone can confirm that these decisions are true and final. I am sure that all opposition members will return.

Sudan's Prime Minister Praises Relations

LD090940 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, Al Tayr [April] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of Sudan praised the deeprooted fraternal relations binding the Arab people in both great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

He described those relations, in a statement he made to JANA and to the voice of the Arab Homeland radio, as "extremely good relations".

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir Concludes Visit

JN071901 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, who is leading a delegation of the higher committee of the occupied land, has concluded a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Republic. During the visit, he and his delegation met with the Libyan leadership. They discussed ways to support the Palestinian masses in their overwhelming uprising against the Zionist occupation authorities.

The Libyan side has made a commitment of $4 million per month toward support of our people against occupation to be channeled through Palestinian bodies handling the affairs of the detainees, wounded, and victims of the savage Israeli repression. Furthermore, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has pledged to provide material assistance on a monthly, regular basis via UNRWA. In addition, Libya has pledged to provide what it can toward supporting Palestinian students attending universities overseas, who have lost contact with their families in the occupied land.

The intensive talks have also raised the issue of extending all forms of support for our kinfolk to a degree commensurate with the uprising of our people. Agreement was also reached on twinning cities and universities in the occupied territories with their Libyan counterparts. Abu Jihad voiced the appreciation of the Palestinian people and leaders for the Libyan leadership led by brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who supports the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. Particularly in the present circumstances of the revolutionary uprising against the Zionist occupation forces committing the worst crimes against our people.

Libya had extended $8 million to a number of Palestinian institutions inside our occupied land last month.

The higher committee of the occupied land is due to meet under Abu Jihad to see to the speedy implementation of these decisions.

JANA Editor Criticizes Carlucci on Tunisia

LD102208 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci has said that the United States is still cautious toward Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Carlucci added in a news conference he held yesterday in Tunis, which was reported by news agencies, that Tunisia wishes to establish good relations with Libya but that it is proceeding cautiously. Carlucci also explained that Tunisia's military debts to the United States total $500 million.

The JANA international affairs editor has commented on that and said:

The U.S. war minister's [as heard] statements are merely a new attempt to spoil relations between Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah and a new chapter in the U.S. efforts to divide the sons of the one Arab nation.

The editor added that Tunisia does not need the advice of the United States and that the free men of Tunisia did not make their 7 November move according to U.S. advice. If they had heeded any of the advice from the United States, they would not have done what they did on 7 November.

The international affairs editor of JANA stressed that we are determined to cut off the nose of the United States, which is interfering in our Arab brothers' affairs, and the longer this nose is, the easier it is to cut off. He noted that the Arab masses in Tunisia, in the Great Jamahiriyah, and in the entire world are witnessing today, through the feverish announcements of the U.S. war minister, the extent of the U.S. imperialist interference and meddling in the internal affairs of our brothers.

The editor went on to say that the United States has again come from across the ocean to interfere between the sons of the one nation who have removed the artificial borders between the two countries. The United States is prompted by an illusion which makes it think it can buy the freemen of Tunisia with $500 million and has forgotten that the Tunisia of 7 November is not the Tunisia of the old days.

The editor explained that cooperation between the United States and any other country cannot be achieved, except, as is known, through bringing the other state to its knees. He said at the same time that those who have cooperated with the United States have lost themselves. One of them had lost his head and his country which has, through this cooperation, been brought to its knees.

At the end of his comment, the JANA international affairs editor referred to the U.S. war minister's remarks that Tunisia's debts to the United States strain the economic and social progress of Tunisia. He emphasized that Tunisia is not the only country which lives this situation, naming other states such as Morocco, Egypt, and other Arab countries which he did not name. The editor said this provides the ultimate evidence on that fact as these statements expose the fact that any cooperation with the United States constitutes a burden on the party cooperating with it and is a means of bringing it to its knees.

Morocco

Prime Minister Leaves for Kuwait ICO Meeting

LD091345 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Rabat Apr 9 (MAP)—Moroccan Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki has left here Saturday morning for Kuwait to attend the meeting of the bureau of the fifth summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), and of the presidents of the Conference standing committees, where he will represent King Hassan II, chairman of the Al-Quds Committee.

This meeting to be held in Kuwait April 10 and 11 will assess and follow up decisions taken by the fifth OIC summit chaired by the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The Moroccan premier is accompanied by a large delegation including minister of Islamic affairs, Mr. Abdelkebir Alaoui M'dahgri and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Cherkaoui.

Sudan

Libyan Army Commander Departs Khartoum 8 Apr

JN081528 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 8 April (SUNA)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis [Jabir], member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution and commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, left Khartoum at 1130 this morning, Friday, following a visit to this country which began last Tuesday. He took part in the Sudanese people's celebrations of the third anniversary of the glorious April uprising, which ousted the tyrant president Numayri.

During the visit he met with the president and members of the State Council.

He was seen off at the Khartoum airport by 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the State Council; Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and a number of ministers and high ranking officials.

Egypt's Sidqi, Al-Sharif Visit Khartoum

LD102035 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, April 10 (SUNA)—The Egyptian Information Minister Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif said his country is keen to honour and respect good neighbouring relations with Libya but he added that the other side, Libya, has proved its incredibility during the last periods, the Arabic daily AL AYYAM [name as received], quoting the Egyptian official, reported here Sunday.

The Egyptian minister of information, who is currently in Khartoum as a part of Egypt's Premier 'Atif Sidqi's delegation, said Libya's declaration to withdraw its troops from the joint borders between the two North African neighbours does not mean anything for Egypt as there is not basically any presence of Libyan military [words indistinct] on the joint borders between the two countries, the paper said.

It also quoted the Egyptian minister as saying that his country will never open its borders, thus without certain measures, for terrorists to infiltrate.

However, he added that Egypt supports any positive initiative aimed at ameliorating Libyan-Egyptian relations provided that some seriousness and credibility would be witnessed [words indistinct] matter, he added, which was not available in the previous experiences, the paper said.

Further, the minister said the Libyan information had not yet refrained its anti-Egyptian campaigns and the proof is that the Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi still attacks Egypt, the paper said.

Tunisia

Carlucci Meets President, Prime Minister

LD091425 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] At noon today, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, National Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly, and Interior Minister Habib Ammar. The meeting was also attended by the respective ambassadors of the two countries.

At the government palace in Casbah this morning, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche had talks with Frank Carlucci in the presence of Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense in charge of international security affairs, and the respective ambassadors of the two countries.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri met Frank Carlucci this morning.

The work of the eighth session of the U.S.-Tunisian military committee began this morning under the supervision of Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly and U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci.

Slaheddine Baly explained that this political and military framework, which meets alternately in one of the two capitals, has played its role and continues its work developing bilateral cooperation in the direction sought by the presidents of the two countries, in consecration of the distinguished relations between Tunisia and the United States.

He added that this meeting will strengthen Tunisian-U.S. relations, especially since it comes after the historic 7 November transformation which heralded the advent of a new Arab era in our country.

Frank Carlucci, in turn, highlighted the task of the U.S.-Tunisian committee and said that this task should continue with the objective of strengthening the ties of bilateral cooperation, in the interest of the two countries.

The work of this eighth session will continue today and tomorrow, at the subcommittee level, with the study of U.S.-Tunisian military cooperation.

Kuwait

Further on Reaction to Plane Hijacking

Prime Minister Postpones Visit

LD081745 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] We have received the following from the office of the prime minister:

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, this evening had a telephone contact with his brother the crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, in which he informed his highness of the latest developments in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and the serious escalation of the situation resulting from the departure of the plane from the airport of the city of Mashhad.

In view of these developments, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister expressed to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz his regrets and apologies for being forced to postpone the official visit which his highness was scheduled to pay to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia tomorrow.

His highness expressed deep gratitude and thanks for the noble fraternal invitation and looks forward to visiting his second country, the fraternal Kingdom, as soon as possible.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz strongly condemned and regretted the serious escalation of this situation and showed full understanding and appreciation of the circumstances which required the postponement of the visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, affirming that he will always be welcomed in his country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

More on Hijackers' Identity

JN091452 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7-8 Apr 88 p 1

[By Jadranka Porter]

[Excerpt] Diplomatics in Kuwait were yesterday trying to piece together information from different sources regarding the identity of the hijackers. A European diplomat quoting a Kuwaiti source told the ARAB TIMES that some Kuwaiti officials were inclined to believe that there are six hijackers on the KU422, four holding Bahraini and two holding Iraqi passports.

But officials from Bahrain and Iraq denied that the six were their nationals suggesting that they were holding forged passports, the envoy said.

An Arab diplomat said that several ambassadors with a keen interest in the incident held a meeting yesterday morning to discuss the identity of the hijackers. It was suggested at that meeting that the six held fake passports. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Reviews Efforts

LD101301 Kuwait KUNA in English 1215 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 10 (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers Sunday condemned the killing of one of the hostages of the Kuwaiti airliner and said efforts to contain the hijacking peacefully and in harmony with the principled stands of Kuwait will continue.

The Cabinet, in its regular weekly meeting, started off by reading the opening sura of the holy Koran, mourning the martyr of the member of the Border Guards Force Muhammad 'Abdallah Habab Shabib al-Khalidi who was assassinated by the criminal hijackers of the Boeing 747 at Larnaca Airport.

The Council, under the chairmanship of H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, while condemning the hideous crime, affirms continuation of the efforts to find a speedy end to the tragedy in a manner ensuring safety of the remaining hostages and upholding the firm principles which Kuwait always pursued, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid said.

Al-Rashid went on saying that the ministers reviewed the latest report on the hijacking from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'id Muhammad al-'Usaymi in the context of review of details on contacts and negotiations which took place with the hijackers.

The Cabinet expressed appreciation for the humanitarian role played by the Cypriot authorities and the assistance offered by the authorities in the sisterly and friendly countries aimed at securing positive results in ending the tragic incident and containing it as soon as possible, Al-Rashid said.

The ministers also reveiwed the invitation received by h.h. the amir from the U.S. President Ronald Reagan to visit the United States to discuss enhancement of bilateral cooperation and exchange views on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Al-Rashid said the Cabinet reviewed the message received by h.h. the amir from the Arab League secretary general on the drought in Djibouti and the efforts made to help the sisterly country tackle the consequences of the drought. They also reviewed a number of reports on the latest developments on the Arab and international forums and followed efforts taken at all levels to end the Iraq-Iran war and support the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, he said.

Al-Rashid added that the ministers listened to a report by the health minister on the 13th session of the Arab health ministers recently held in Amman and another by the Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi on the outcome of the meeting of the Arab finance corporations which met in Muscat on the 3rd and 4th of the current month. The Council approved the revision of the area of plots offered for housing and directed the committee to review the issue as soon as possible in coordination with other concerned quarters, the minister of state for cabinet affairs said.

Foreign Minister Confers With Soviet Official

LD091505 Kuwait KUNA in English 1329 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 9 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir met here Saturday with Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Georgiy Tarazevich, who is currently visiting Kuwait within a tour of the region. The meeting between Shaykh Sabah and Tarazevich was attended by officials in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev.

The two officials discussed bilateral relations and means of developing them in various fields. The talks also tackled the Iraqi-Iranian war and international efforts exerted to end it, where Kuwait has emphasized the necessity to implement Security Council Resolution 598 on the issue. The Soviet-Kuwaiti talks also dealt with the Middle East cause, the Palestinian uprising inside the occupied Arab territories and the situation in the region in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin hosted, on behalf of Shaykh Sabah, a luncheon Saturday in honor of the visitng Soviet diplomat and the accompanying delegation, and was attended by several officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Leaves for Jordan

LD101520 Kuwait KUNA in English 1428 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 10 (KUNA)—Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and President of Belorussia Georgiy Tarazevich left here Sunday for Jordan, ending a four-day visit to Kuwait. In a statement to KUNA, the Soviet official said he met with his highness the amir of Kuwait and exchanged views with him on a number of issues. He also met with Deputy Premier Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The Soviet official strongly denounced the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and voiced his country's readiness to support any measures by Kuwait to peacefully end the hijacking. He also denounced Israeli repressive and brutal practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied land.

There is still a possibility for putting into effect the Security Council Resolution No. 598 to end the Gulf conflict, said Tarazevich, noting that Moscow is exerting its efforts in this regard. He said his country and Kuwait hold similar attitudes toward several issues and have a joint desire for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

He was fully satisfied with the outcome of his visit and stressed the need for both countries' cooperation in all fields, including cooperation between KUNA and TASS.

The Soviet official was seen off at the airport by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin, Soviet ambassador here and Najih Baghli from protocol department.

Hijacking Shows Policy on Terrorists 'Firm'

LD090754 Kuwait KUNA in English 0613 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait April 9 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily emphasized Saturday that the skyjacking of the Kuwaiti aircraft "Al-Jabiriyah" will not alter the stands and convictions of Kuwait, adding that these terrorist actions are only a result of this firm Kuwaiti policy. Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in an editorial, said that "the greatest accomplishment Kuwait has achieved was that it captured the attention to the fact that it does not bargain on principles nor does it help those who hate justice."

"If there is somebody who believes that the hijacking of a plane would alter the convictions or shake the stands, he is committing a big error as he does not understand Kuwait or the nature of its people," the paper stressed.

It reiterated that "there are people who want to see the evil on this country and its people...on its security and stability...they wanted it a stage for their conflicts and plots, but the consciousness of the Kuwait people has failed them and left them exposed biting their fingers."

Meanwhile, the English-language KUWAIT TIMES editorially said that certain questions must be fully answered to prevent any future actions of this nature from happening. The central question, it noted, is where and how did the team of pirates manage to sneak into the KAC jetliner with all the arms and ammunition? "We have a right to ask this question and surely, somebody has a duty to provide a rational and acceptable answer to it," the TIMES argued. It concluded that it is not comprehensible why would anybody go to these "dastardly lengths" to hurt Kuwait, which "has hurt nobody."

Papers Condemn Hijackers' 'Cowardly Crime'

LD100912 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0525 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Apr (KUNA)—In their editorials today, Kuwaiti papers strongly condemned the cowardly crime perpetrated by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane

at Larnaca Airport yesterday. The editorials also expressed confidence in the Kuwaiti Government's position of dealing with the hijackers firmly to give them a lesson that would be an example to them and to others to stop terrorism and the path of crime.

The Daily AL-SIYASAH called on the Kuwaiti Government to maintain its strong, firm, and determined position in confronting terrorist highwaymen. It pointed to the Kuwaiti amir's meeting with chief editors of Kuwaiti papers and to his statement that the Kuwaiti Government is committed to its principles and that the system does not discriminate among citizens in Kuwait, and that a fair man's word is fair. It expressed regret that this incident should take place at a time when the fifth meeting of the ICO bureau and the heads of permanent committees is to be held. It is "as if the intention were to disrupt this Islamic gathering" which produced positive results last year.

The paper concluded: "Kuwait dealt wisely with the issue of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane, Kadimah, nearly 2 years ago, and the Kuwaiti Government's wisdom will not be less, in cooperation with the Cypriot Government, to end this tragedy which is bound to claim innocent victims."

The paper addressed a call to the hijackers to direct their rejected violence toward Israeli planes which roam the world. "They have not moved an inch toward them. On the contrary, all they have done constitutes a sincere service to Israel which greatly exceeds what Tel Aviv is capable of doing. [passage omitted]

For its part AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM stressed the intricacy and complexity of the operation. It said there were many question marks, all of which concern the hijackers, their identities, origins, and the way they were able to smuggle weapons onto the plane.

The paper, which has related the details of the hijacking moment by moment, stressed that the fact that weapons were smuggled onto the plane gives the impression that international parties had a hand and were involved in the operation and that international parties were eager to create confusion in Kuwait, especially since Kuwait is hosting an Islamic minisummit conference today, the most important items on the agenda of which are the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestinian uprising.

The Kuwaiti paper demanded that these saboteurs be exposed and all information be broadcast so everyone may know all the facts. They will then realize that Kuwait is a victim of terrorism and has paid out in comfort, the blood of its sons, and the reputation of its successful enterprises what a small and peaceful country cannot afford. Finally, the paper stressed that "the need to know all the details and for all information to be published becomes prominent to pinpoint those responsible directly and indirectly." [passage omitted]

Bomb Reportedly Explodes 9 Apr; No Casualties

LD100613 Moscow TASS in English 0603 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] London April 10 TASS—A bomb was exploded by unidentified men in Kuwait City on Saturday, the news agency REUTER reported. The explosion which occurred on a police parking lot did not cause casualties. The source of the blast is being investigated, the news agency said. Terrorists planted at least nine bombs in Kuwait last year. Gunmen, who have taken hostages and hijacked a Kuwaiti passenger airliner now in Cyprus, demand the release of 17 people imprisoned in Kuwait for complicity in bomb attacks, the news agency notes.

Oman

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Muscat 10 Apr

JN100822 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Muscat, 10 Apr (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Muscat today on an official visit of several days to the Sultanate of Oman. The Iranian minister was welcomed upon arrival by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Muscat. The OMANI NEWS AGENCY said Velayati's visit to Muscat falls within the framework of the efforts to develop bilateral relations.

Conveys Message, Departs

LD110911 Tehran IRNA in English 0619 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation to Muscat met Omani head, Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id Sunday and submitted him a message from President Khamene'i of Iran. Oman's state minister for foreign affairs also attended the meeting.

Velayati briefed Sultan Qabus on the victories of Muslim combatants in Val-Fajr 10 operations, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq, and Iraq's deployment of chemical substances in Halabjah and on Iran's border villages, stressing Iran's firm determination to consolidate relations with regional countries.

Sultan Qabus appreciated the visit of Iranian delegation and said that Oman is ready to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that Tehran-Muscat cooperation with littoral states would be useful. Omani sultan also said that Iran's cooperation with regional states would be fruitful and would help to further the goals of the regional nations.

In another meeting Sunday Velayati talked with Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, Natwar Singh, currently visiting Muscat.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional issues and New Delhi-Tehran cooperation as non-aligned member states. Velayati extended an invitation to Singh who accepted the offer and agreed to visit Tehran at a future time for participation at Iran-India joint commission meet.

Velayati left Tehran early Sunday morning for an official visit to Muscat and Abu Dhabi.

Saudi Arabia

George Shultz Gives Press Conference on Visit

LD090006 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2025 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Al-Qasim, 8 April (SPA)—The U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shulz, has described his talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in Buraydah in Al-Qasim, as very useful. At a press conference he held before his departure from Al-Qasim after his visit to the Kingdom, he expressed his appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, and said: I was pleased to take the opportunity to meet King Fahd. He thanked King Fahd for receiving him.

Mr Shultz explained that the talks centered on the peace process in the area and subjects of mutual interest, especially the developments in Afghanistan and the Arabian Gulf, and on Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the ending of the Iraq-Iran war, as well as the Lebanese problem.

In reply to a question on the way he sees the results of his talks with Saudi officials, Mr Shultz said: I found the talks fruitful and very useful.

He said relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States are based on mutual respect. He said: I see the future as constantly getting stronger through existing cooperation. I believe that there is truth in our talks. Being able to talk in an official and frank manner has been useful. He pointed to the history of good relations for many years and said we have to continue along this road.

Concerning his peace plan, Shultz said it is worthy of attention and investigation. One must not exaggerate any progress he said. The important thing is for all sides to acknowledge the importance of peace in the area. Shultz called on Israel to refrain from violence and unacceptable practices. He described the situation there as very difficult.

Concerning the international conference, Shultz said his idea is that those who attend the international conference will be Israel and the states which surround Israel—Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The Palestinians will be represented in the joint Jordanian delegation, in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, Shultz said he had had constructive talks in Syria on cooperation between President al-Asad and President al-Jumayyil concerning the constitutional situation; this will strengthen the possibility of holding elections in Lebanon.

Shultz pointed out that he had discussed with the officials in the Kingdom the question of the Kingdom's purchase of Chinese medium-range missiles and he said the talks were satisfactory.

Shultz affirmed the support of his country for the Afghan mujahidin and its support for Pakistan and the freedom fighters in Afghanistan.

During the conversation he had with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, King Fahd informed Mr Shultz that as long as the aim is a just and fair solution it would be necessary to hold an international conference to solve the Palestinian issue on a firm basis—namely, the legitimate, clear right of the Arabs and the necessary withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied in 1967. It is also equally important that the PLO take part in this conference so the Palestinian people can decide their own future.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, reviewed with Mr Shultz all matters concerning the Palestinian issue. This is the same subject about which the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, spoke in regard to the international conference and the participation of the PLO in it and the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to self-determination.

Reply Given to Iranian Accusation on Oil Prices

LD091103 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Apr (SPA)—In reply to the accusation by the Iranian oil minister that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has caused the instability of oil prices because of its attempts to delay the meeting of the prices' committee, according to news reported by REUTER last Thursday, an official source told SPA that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to stress anew its commitment to the OPEC decisions and that it was the Kingdom that asked the chairman of the five-man committee and chairman of the conference, on 22 March, to convene the fifth committee in charge of the control of prices in an immediate meeting to discuss irresponsible behavior by the others.

The source further said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses its commitment to the ceiling decided by the OPEC and that it is Iran that is working for the instability of oil prices by failing to abide by the quota and the ceiling decided and by selling oil at prices below those decided by OPEC.

The source stressed that the Kingdom has always aimed at the principle of the stability of oil prices and that the one who can discern the commitment of the Kingdom and its goals is the chairman of OPEC.

Yemen Arab Republic

Government Denounces Airliner Hijacking

JN092040 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated the following: The Yemeni Arab Republic is following with great concern the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

The YAR denounces and condemns all acts of piracy affecting civil aviation and jeopardizing the lives of innocent people. It also rejects this terrorist method of exerting political pressure and dictating the wishes of any side. The YAR also supports any measure taken by the government of the fraternal State of Kuwait to insure the safety of the passengers and its hijacked airliner.

Airport Director Rules Out Landing by Plane

NC091827 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Manama, April 9 (AFP)—An attempt to land a hijacked Kuwait Airways 747 at the airport in the North Yemeni capital Sanaa would end in disaster, the airport director said Saturday. "The plane will burst into flames if it attempts to land at our airport," Muhammad 'Atallah al-Faqih told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in a telephone conversation. "Our runways are too narrow and too short." He said the largest plane the airport can accommodate is a medium-sized Boeing 737.

"Our equipment is such that it precludes a night landing," he said. "Kuwait Airways pilots know we cannot receive Boeing 747s." Palestinian sources in Cyprus, where the Kuwaiti plane has been held since Friday, said earlier that the hijackers wanted to have the plane refuelled for a possible flight to Sanaa. Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have been assisting Cypriot authorities in negotiations with the hijackers at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus.

The plane was commandeered early Tuesday over the southern Gulf, near the end of a Bangkok-Kuwait flight. The plane was first flown to Mashhad Airport in northeast Iran, where hijackers released 57 of the 112 people aboard. It was allowed to leave Iran Friday afternoon and landed in Cyprus after being refused permission to touch down in Lebanon and Syria.

40 Tons of Bombs Seized at Italian Airport

LD062258 Rome International Service in Italian 2200 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] We again have some information about arms trafficking in which Italy is involved. Marcello Veneziani reports:

[Veneziani] Forty tons of bombs destined for Iraq were seized at Fiumicino Airport, and two people, one Lebanese and one Iraqi, arrested. The arms trafficking was discovered 10 days ago, but the news was only made public today. There are reports that the trafficking might include 900,000 aircraft bombs with antitank heads which were made in Italy and sent to the Iraqis in boxes. Some of the lethal devices have already reached their destination, and some of the equipment has, on the other hand, been seized at the firms where it was made in Tuscany and Lombardy.

The two arrested foreigners are reported to have acted under the cover of an import-export firm based in Rome. The carabinieri are reported to have stopped an aircraft bound from Fiumicino to Baghdad and reportedly found the cargo in its hold. The cargo had been divided into 90 parcels, with false dispatch notes.

Meanwhile, eight other people are suspected of involvement by the Brindisi public prosecutor's office in a similar case of international arms trafficking via third countries—in this case via Indonesia—to send war equipment—but some people even talk of chemical weapons—to Iraq, Iran, and Syria.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Missile Strike Against Tehran

JN071444 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1435 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the 75th missile blow was dealt to the city of Tehran at 1810 [1410 GMT] today. This is the third strike by the heroic Al-Husayn missile force at the capital of charlatans with the Al-Husayn missile today. Praise be to you O heroes of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. God is with us on the road of victory.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Communique No 3,124

JN081545 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1507 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,124 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's care and the conscientious men of the military industrialization effort and the heroes of the Al-Husayn missile force, the following missile strikes were directed at enemy cities last night and today:

1. At 1923 [1523 GMT] yesterday the 76th missile attack with Al-Husayn missiles was made against Esfahan.

2. At 2125 yesterday the 77th missile attack with Al-Husayn missiles was made against Tehran.

3. At 1825 yesterday the 78th missile attack with Al-Husayn missiles was made against Tabriz.

4. At 1845 yesterday the 79th missile attack with Al-Husayn missiles was made against Tehran.

5. At 0418 [0018 GMT] today the 80th missile attack with Al-Husayn missiles was made against Esfahan.

6. At 0615 today the 81st missile attack with Al-Husayn missiles was made against Qom.

May God bless our heroic men of the military industrialization effort and the Al-Husayn missile force. Thanks be to God that he made us triumph over our enemy, and bestowed upon us the blessing of victory. He is the best giver.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 April 1988

Communique No 3,125

JN081744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1603 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,125 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued their heroic activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our Air Force mounted the following missions inside Iran and over Arabian Gulf waters as follows:

a. At 2148 [1748 GMT] yesterday our aircraft launched a raid against Hamadan.

b. At 2200 yesterday our aircraft raided Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

c. Last night our Air Force's aircraft dealt a precise, effective hit to a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast. Having completed these duties all our aircraft returned safely to base.

2. The heroes of the helicopter gunships made 39 combat missions against enemy units and gun and equipment emplacements and then returned safely to base with God's care.

3. Eleven scoundrels were killed, 2 shovels [preceding word in English], an SPG-9 gun, and 2 vehicles were destroyed, and 3 ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Two machineguns were destroyed, three ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces. Five different positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. A tubular launcher and single-barrel machinegun were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Three enemy personnel were killed, and two observation posts destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris one enemy soldier was killed, five infantry positions and an anti-tank rocket launcher were destroyed and a tank was damaged. Also in the VI corps sector a scoundrel was killed, a machinegun and infantry position were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

7. Thirteen enemy boats tried to approach the ports of Al-Bakr and Al-'Amiq yesterday, but our men there confronted them and forced them to flee.

8. At 1045 [0645 GMT] today the unjust rulers of Iran launched a missile at Baghdad, and at 1455 today they launched another missile at Mosul. Both missiles landed in residential districts. They martyred or wounded civilians, including women and children. The missiles also destroyed or damaged homes, shops, and other civilian property.

Last night and today the criminal enemy also shelled with long range artillery residential districts in Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Al-Qurnah, Al-Majarr Al-Kabir, Al-Kahla', and Khanaqin. The enemy shelling martyred or wounded a number of our dear citizens including women and children, and damaged homes, a hospital, and civilian cars.

May our martyrs go to heaven. Speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 April 1988

Communique No 3,126

JN091643 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,126 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our troops' activities for last night and today:

1. Our helicopter gunships carried out 79 combat sorties inflicting further losses on the enemy. Having done this, they returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following loses on the aggressors:

—Killing 35 enemy personnel.

—Burning and destroying four vehicles, including two vehicles carrying personnel.

—Destroying one SPG-9 gun.

—Blowing up three ammunition dumps.

—Destroying three observation posts and one infantry position.

3. Two scoundrels were killed and two heavy machine guns and one observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. One heavy artillery gun, one machine gun, and two infantry positions were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the III-Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. One boat was burned and destroyed and seven enemy personnel were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One 106-MM gun was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. The Al-'Amiq port force spotted seven boats trying to approach the loading platform. It handled them using its own weapons and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

6. The criminal enemy used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the cities of Basra, Al-Qurnah, Darband-i Khan, Khanaqin, and Raniyah. The shelling martyred and wounded a number of civilians. It also demolished and damaged a number of houses, commercial stores, and vehicles. May paradise be the final abode of our martyrs and may swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 April 1988

Communique No 3,127

JN101631 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,127 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The results of our units' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force carried out 105 combat missions today, inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors' personnel, weapons, and equipment. Then all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The brave knights of the helicopter gunships flew 95 combat missions, inflicting new losses on the enemy's scoundrels, gun emplacements, and vehicles. Then they returned with their planes safely to base. God be praised.

3. Three enemy personnel were killed; one machine gun emplacement, one infantry position, and one observation post were destroyed; three vehicles were burned; and one ammuniton dump was blown up in the I Army Corp norther sector.

4. One SPG-9 gun and three enemy observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. One heavy machine gun and two infantry positions were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector and one tubular launcher and one machine gun were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. A number of Iranian military personnel took refuge with our forward positions. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

7. The criminal Iranian enemy shelled residential areas in the cities of Khanaqin, 'Ali al-Gharbi, and Darband-i Khan with long-range artillery last night and today. The shelling martyred wounded a number of citizens, including women and children, and damaged a number of houses and civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 April 1988

Chemical Weapons Use Denied

JN102001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman today denied Iranian allegations that the Iraqi Air Force carried out activities against civilian targets and used a chemical weapon against the city of Marivan. The spokesman affirmed that the allegations are lies aimed at justifying the Iranian regime's strike at Iraqi units with chemical weapons and at concealing facts in connection with the UN investigations.

The spokesman also said that while the Iranian regime is using chemical weapons, it is also trying to deceive world public opinion and international organizations. The spokesman said that Iraq did not use any chemical weapons against Marivan today.

Battle in Dahuk Denied

JN102106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations that a battle has occured in the Surija housing complex in the Iraqi Governorate of Dahuk. In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said that security prevails in the area and daily life goes on as usual.

Missile Strikes Noted

JN110644 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0627 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 11 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and the determination of the zealous men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force the two following missile strikes were launched:

1. At 0950 [0550 GMT] today, the 82d strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Esfahan.

2. At 0958 today, the 83d strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the capital of charlatanism, Tehran.

May God greet you O brave men of our military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. Go forward.

[Dated] 11 April 1988

Missile Strikes Tehran

JN110835 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0826 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Statement by a military military spokesman dated 11 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and the determination of the strugglers of the military industries and the fighters of the Al-Husayn missile force, the 84th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran at 1203 [0803 GMT] today. Glory to the heroes of the military industries and the fighters of the Al-Husayn missile force. Determination and success come from God.

[Dated] 11 April 198[illegible]

Firebomb Thrown at U.S. Consulate Worker's Home
TA081825 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at the home of a U.S. Consulate employee a short while ago. The house is located opposite Al-Ibrahimiyah College in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

'No Information' About Noriega Asylum Request
TA111027 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced at noon today that it has no information whatsoever about the report that Panamanian leader General Noriega may seek political asylum in Israel.

A similar reaction was received from the Panamanian Embassy in Israel. We know nothing about such a possibility, said Antonio (Fueguillo), the embassy's first secretary.

As may be recalled, NEWSWEEK reported this morning that Noriega—whom the United States is charging with drug trafficking—intends to take up residence in Israel, along with members of his family. According to the same report, his wife has been looking for a suitable school in Israel for their daughter.

Expulsion of Soviet Delegation 'Threatened'
TA100849 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel has threatened to expel the Soviet consular delegation if Moscow does not approve a reciprocal visit by a similar Israeli delegation very shortly, the DAVAR correspondent has learned from Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Ministry is worried about the delay in issuing visas to the Israeli consular delegation scheduled to visit Moscow this month. Although Israel submitted the applications a month ago through the Dutch Embassy [in Moscow], which represents Israel's interests, the visas have not yet been received.

The delay contravenes the USSR's promise conveyed by Soviet diplomats to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem as early as 3 months ago. The Soviet consular delegation has been in Israel for 10 months. An Israeli official will depart for Western Europe this week to hold talks with Soviet diplomats in a bid to settle the crisis.

PRC Reportedly Purchases Lavi Radar System
TA100454 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] London THE SUNDAY TIMES reports that China has bought the radar system that Israel originally developed for the now-canceled Lavi project. The paper says China favored the system because it was specifically designed to counter the threat posed by Soviet military technology. [passage omitted]

Shomron Discusses Unrest, Saudi Missiles, Syria
TA091018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Interview with General Dan Shomron, IDF chief of staff, by Arye Gus, military correspondent Karmela Menashe, and Roni Dani'el; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Menashe] After 4 months of service in the territories do you have unequivocal conclusions regarding the effect these events are having on the soldiers and on the IDF's state of preparedness for war?

[Shomron] I think we should examine the IDF on several levels, the first of which is the immediate level. A lot has been said concerning the morale of the soldiers. Well, for your information, the morale is high. Moreover, when we carry out investigations and speak with the soldiers—and this includes surveys prepared by the IDF's psychological unit—we see that the confidence of the soldiers in their immediate officers has grown...

[Dani'el, interrupting] Are you referring to the last 4 months?

[Shomron] Certainly. As a result of the intensive joint activities, with the officers leading the activities during the incidents and having to make decisions themselves because the incidents have been taking place in many places simultaneously, the confidence in the officers has grown, and their esprit de corps is good. Therefore I say that in the morale sphere there has been no damage. The soldiers understand that this is their mission, and they accept it.

The second level is that of training. Obviously a price is paid in the area of training. The damage, however, is not immediate, and the question must be asked: How long will we have to operate with the same strength and the same units? Our assessment is that when we reach a calmer situation—and we will reach such a state—we will be able to use fewer units, and our plan is that in the next work year the regular army will suffer less and a larger share of the burden will fall on the reserve units, although all the reserve units will also have some training.

[Gus] Mr Chief of Staff, you said there is no morale harm to the army, but there was a letter written by high school seniors [against service in the territories].

[Shomron] There was such a letter. There will always be letters from various points of view...

[Gus, interrupting] And people refusing to serve?

[Shomron] Perhaps you will be surprised to hear that no regular army soldiers have yet refused to serve in the territories. As far as the reserves are concerned, I think there are perhaps two people who were active on the political issue even before they were called for reserve duty. There is no phenomenon of refusing to serve.

[Menashe] There are also many statements being made by reserve officers and petitions against military service in the territories. How do you view this?

[Shomron] Legally they are entitled to write petitions. I find fault, however, with reserve officers who, as civilians, add their military ranks to the petition. In my opinion this runs contrary to the understanding that the IDF acts within the national consensus and according to authoritative government decisions. Every civilian is entitled to his own opinion, but when this opinion is indirectly supported by the military rank, this introduces a military dimension, so to speak, to this opinion.

[Gus] These petitions, however, reflect the mood in a certain section of the IDF officer corps.

[Shomron] You mean reserve officers?

[Gus] Yes, certainly.

[Shomron] It reflects the mood of a certain segment of the civilian population in Israel, and they are obviously entitled to this.

[Menashe] Can you tell us what the percentage of volunteers to combat units has been recently?

[Dani'el, interrupting] And have events had any influence?

[Shomron] Let us take the recent conscription period from last February, which reflects the trend. There is a very strong volunteerism trend. For every available spot in the volunteer units there are ten volunteers. We have no problem in this area. The soldiers want to serve in combat units, and these are the same units that serve in the territories, when necessary. Moreover, even new recruits who come from professional schools ask to serve in combat units.

[Dani'el] Dan Shomron, I am getting the impression that the IDF almost welcomes the events in the territories, seeing that it brings it only good [word indistinct].

[Shomron] No. I would very much like the IDF to deal only with training and preparations for its main mission, which is war against regular armies. I want to tell you, though, that the bleak prophecies and the impressions I find expressed in the media do not reflect reality. The message I would like to convey is that the IDF regards this mission as a military mission just like any other mission it is given to carry out, without any connection with the political views of the individuals. The IDF does not have any problem with this. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] Over the last few weeks we have gotten the impression—based partly on remarks made by Defense Minister Rabin—that Israel has some kind of answer to the Saudi missiles.

[Shomron] First, I want to say something general regarding the kind of threat the missiles pose and the psychological rather than practical background in which they are seen. The problem of the missiles today is less acute while they carry a warhead consisting of regular explosives. The Scud missiles, for example, carry 1 ton whereas any plane today carries at least 5 tons and is much more accurate than the Scud. The Arab countries, who suffer from aerial inferiority, want to find means to terrorize our civilian population, to put it simply.

This weapon cannot decide a war and cannot influence its results. In the past there were terror bombardments on a much larger scale, such as the V-1's and V-2's and the bombardments on Germany. But this did not change or decide the outcome of wars anywhere. They do, however, affect the civilian population, although it is hard to assess this effect, whether it is a cementing influence or whether it lowers or raises morale. This is a question in itself. There is, however, something the missiles can do. A country that goes to war has to realize that it is a painful thing. All the soldiers in the front also have families in the rear, and they also are important.

[Gus] Until now the IDF has managed to safeguard the civilian population.

[Shomron] The IDF greatly wants to protect the civilian population, but the IDF's—or rather Israel's— first mission is to win the war and to do so quickly. We can see the precise meaning of a stalemate in the Gulf war at present. Perhaps the greatest danger for Israel is a stalemate. The most important thing is to decide the war as quickly as possible.

Now let us return to the missiles: What is the danger posed by them? Those who acquire missiles—seeing that they are very expensive and can carry only a small amount of explosives to the target—naturally tend to develop chemical warheads and perhaps even biological warheads that are more effective, and at a later stage perhaps even to consider nuclear weapons. This is the danger posed by the missiles. All the countries around us—except for Jordan, at this stage—have surface-to-surface missiles.

[Dani'el] And so has Israel.

[Shomron] This is what I have been reading in the newspapers. All the countries have entered this field, so what concerns us is the direction of the development, which constantly leads the parties to search for the most effective, threatening, and deterring warhead.

[Gus] Iraq has already used chemical weapons.

[Shomron] True, but I do not think that the Iraqi use of chemical weapons against Iran is an example which fits our situation.

[Gus] Why isn't it fitting?

[Shomron] Because every country that uses such weapons calculates the advantages and the disadvantages. Look, when Egypt fought Yemen before 1967, it used chemical weapons. When it fought us in 1967, it had chemical weapons, and when it fought us in 1973, it certainly had chemical weapons. Syria also had chemical weapons in 1973. These two armies were in a difficult situation in 1973...

[Dani'el, interrupting] And they fired surface-to-surface missiles in 1973.

[Shomron] The Egyptians fired Scud missiles, but neither of them used chemical weapons. Why not?

[Gus] Are you hinting that they knew we could have retaliated with the same weapons?

[Shomron] I am sure they know that our ability to hit them is greater, much greater than their ability to hit us. Therefore, the comparison with Iran is irrelevant. We have answers [for the missiles] in two, or rather three spheres: 1) deterrence; 2) our ability to deal with these missiles defensively and offensively; and 3) civil defense, in which we invest relatively small amounts and only in the more important areas.

This limited investment makes quick decisions possible, for when you have limited resources, you must determine your priorities, even if it is very unpleasant. It would be much simpler to purchase everything we need, but unfortunately this is not possible.

[Menashe] To what extent is the civilian population protected from chemical weapons?

[Shomron] On the individual level every civilian will receive a mask, the children as well. The truth is that we are somewhat exaggerating the chemical issue. Although the newer types of gas are more volatile—for example, the sarin—sealing all windows and doors tightly and putting on the masks is very effective protection from the chemical weapons.

[Dani'el] Judging by the Iran-Iraq war, do chemical weapons have an effect on the battlefield?

[Shomron] There is no effect on the battlefield. The Iranians are advancing even where gas is fired at them. There are quite a few civilian casualties when the Iraqis fire at Kurdish villages. I do not even know if there are any windows there or what exactly is taking place. I have not gotten the impression that this weapon has any effect on the Iranian Army. Obviously there are casualties, but they are continuing to advance.

[Gus] Nevertheless, Mr Chief of Staff, our state of alertness still worries me. What about the conclusions drawn from the night the gas storage tanks in the Haifa port burned?

[Shomron] When a state of emergency is declared, the IDF takes over the responsibility of the civilian population. The example you brought up has nothing to do with the IDF, and I do not want to speak for the establishments that deal with this issue. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] Do you see any danger of a war with Syria in the near future?

[Shomron] I cannot say I see any signs that Syria is about to initiate a war. At the same time, however, we know that the situation can deteriorate in several ways, and this may bring about such a situation. We are preparing for such an eventuality. There is a difference between an assessment based upon certain definite signs and between a state of being prepared for a situation that might take place. This calls for different answers and involves different risks. According to our assessments, the Syrians do not intend to initiate a war, but the Syrian approach—which regards the overall solution in the Middle East in terms of military power—has not changed.

[Menashe] Is the IDF prepared?

[Shomron] The IDF is prepared and is constantly preparing for war.

[Dani'el] Have the Syrians reached what they consider strategic parity with Israel?

[Shomron] In my opinion they do not think they have reached strategic parity with us. From what I understand to be their perception of strategic parity, it does not involve their being able to win or decide a war against us, but rather gives them the ability not to collapse, to hold on. I think this is what they mean by strategic parity. In my opinion they have not reached this state, and I hope they share this opinion. [passage omitted]

[Gus] Mr Chief of Staff, we have been sitting in the midst of the population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for 20 years now, and yet we did not understand what is taking place there, nor did we establish an infrastructure that would be able to predict what was going to happen. How can you explain this?

[Shomron] I do not know what you mean when you say we did not know what was going to happen. We have always known that the territories are a powder keg. You are asking what should have been done in the area of intelligence or how the Civilian Administration should have acted? I would not like to deal with the issue of the Civilian Administration...

[Gus, interrupting] My question obviously involved the intelligence sphere.

[Shomron] There was no intelligence information until the disturbances erupted. In my opinion this stems from the simple fact that no element planned or prepared the disturbances. It is very difficult to collect intelligence information when it does not exist. There are only general assessments. You know, people are saying that because we were surprised in the territories, there is no reason for us not to be surprised by Syria.

However, when Syria or any other country intends to launch a war, it makes preparations, and I assume that its units receive orders. One can perceive preparations. In the territories, on the other hand, nobody gave orders to anybody else. Nobody prepared anything...

[Dani'el] What about piles of stones?

[Shomron] Nobody prepared piles of stones or anything else. There are a lot of stones in the area. Therefore when the disturbances erupted...[changes thought] I repeat that we have the fundamental intelligence, namely that we are sitting on a powder keg. Nobody, however, had concrete intelligence information stating that the disturbances were about to erupt on a large scale on a certain date. They themselves did not know this.

[Gus] Nevertheless, Mr Chief of Staff, can you state that this fault has been corrected? We have heard that a new network has been established in the territories to deal with these issues precisely.

[Shomron] No such network has been established. The same elements that have been active there all the time, such as the Shin Bet and the Civilian Administration—the army is not responsible for the territories from the intelligence point of view—these elements, due to the state of emergency in the territories, are working much more intensively and effectively together with us. I do not think that any new body has been established. I do not know about any new body. [passage omitted]

Peres, Shamir Brief Cabinet on Shultz Mission

TA110912 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Apr 88 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] U.S. Vice President George Bush unequivocally supports the Shultz initiative. If he becomes President of the United States—and he has very good chances of succeeding Reagan in the White House—he will undoubtedly continue the initiative.

This was the evaluation presented by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at yesterday's cabinet meeting, when it got around to hearing a dual report on Shultz' shuttle from the prime minister and the vice prime minister.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who reiterated his known positions on readiness for direct negotiations after a ceremonial opening under the auspices of the two superpowers, told the ministers he believes that King Husayn "wants to get out of direct negotiations." Shamir maintains that if Israel agrees to participate in an international conference, there will be an attempt to "widen the crack" and force on Israel additional things, such as the presence of PLO representatives who will be invited by the UN secretary general.

According to reports Shamir received at the conclusion of Shultz' visit in Jerusalem, it appears that the events in the territories are now making it difficult for the king to put together a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Husayn is reportedly "disappointed" because Shultz did not pressure Israel and, contrary to the king's expectations, did not drop any hints in Jerusalem about cuts in aid.

The United States, Shamir told the ministers, believes that the time has come to move the initiative forward to the "operational" stage and that Husayn's standing as a partner must be preserved. His decline would lead to a rise in Palestinian nationalism, Shamir said.

Shamir also reported yesterday that, during Shultz' visit, Israel was promised that "an effort would be made" to complete the memorandum of understanding, which formalizes the series of understandings already existing between Jerusalem and Washington, by Independence Day.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres praised Shultz for his firm and public support—even in Arab capitals—for the formula of a conference without coercive powers, for Peres' three no's, and for a fourth no: no to dismantling settlements.

Peres praised Shultz highly for his remarks to Arabs that "Israel's security is not an issue on which to exert pressures."

The foreign minister outlined the three possible characteristics of the permanent settlement—autonomy, federation, and territorial compromise—and the difficulties involved in an interim arrangement: the source of power of the authority to be set up, its border, and the size of its administrative council.

Peres also said that clarifications on the Soviet position were received, and the assessment is that Shultz will disclose his view of the situation to the Soviets in his meeting with Shevardnadze on 21 April. At this stage, the Soviet position has not yet crystallized, Peres said.

The foreign minister reiterated his regret over last year's "missed opportunity" to achieve a breakthrough, and stressed: Shultz is returning. The initiative is continuing. During his remaining months in office, Shultz is prepared to promote the Soviet Jewry issue as well.

The cabinet yesterday sufficed with hearing the two reports and there was no debate on the subject. [passage omitted]

Likud Knesset Member Examines Shultz Initiative
TA091339 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Interview with Likud Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor by Arye Haskell on 7 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Haskell] In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Shamir still opposes the international conference, while Vice Premier Peres presses for its acceptance.

Is there not a danger that Prime Minister Shamir, that Israel, will be blamed if and when the Shultz initiative collapses? Is the Likud merely stonewalling to prevent any return of Judaea and Samaria? These are some of the questions we put to Likud MK Dan Meridor, a top adviser to Prime Minister Shamir.

[Meridor] The problem is that we still don't have a partner for negotiations, even under the proposal by Secretary Shultz, which is why I believe that the recent tour of Mr Shultz in the area was aimed mainly not to Jerusalem but to Amman, which is why he was twice in Amman, speaking to the king, listening to him, asking him questions. Because, you see, if we want a peace process we need the king. Without him there wouldn't be a peace process. The king hasn't said yes. In effect, the king in his own way did not accept the initiative.

I had the opportunity of speaking with the member of Congress from America [not further identified] who was here 3 days ago, on the same day when he arrived through the bridges from Amman, where he had spoken to the Jordanian prime minister, Mr al-Rifa'i, who had told him, as it was conveyed to me, that Jordan will not come unless the PLO is invited; that even if the PLO is invited, Jordan will not participate unless at least either the PLO or Syria—and presumably both—will be present at the table; that the Jordanians will not come unless the Soviets come; and, of course, that the Jordanians will not come unless the conference has more of a role to play, a deeper, more meaningful role to play than the one given her by Mr Shultz.

So, if that is the case, I think instead of quarreling among ourselves, which we love to do especially in an election year, we should see things as they are. The king hasn't said yes, so whether we would have said yes or no, we won't have a peace process starting under these conditions.

[Haskell] But if this is the case, if King Husayn will not say yes, why not call Husayn's bluff? Why shouldn't Israel say yes, put Husayn on the spot, and drastically improve Israel's image, particularly in the United States?

[Meridor] Thank you for the question. We have been urged with the same question in October last year, when Secretary Shultz came here and said: Would you accept an opening by the two superpowers, Reagan and Gorbachev, and then direct negotiations? We had 3 or 4 days of discussions among ourselves, whether to say yes or no, and some of us said: Send him to the king, tell him to go to the king first. And then we said: No, it's Shultz, you can't do it to him. Others said: If you say yes, the king will say no, and the result won't be that you'll be the good guys; the result will be that in no time the Americans will provide us with a new plan, more to the Arab side.

What happened? In October, Shamir said yes. It wasn't easy, because we allowed the Soviets in, in a certain role, in an opening ceremonial role. Shultz heard our yes, was very enthusiastic, went to London, asked the king; the king said unequivocally no. He said: I want an ongoing conference, not an opening ceremony. Then we got the applause of the Americans for a week or 2, but in 2 or 3 months' time, Secretary Shultz came back again, saying to us: Well, the king didn't accept the other proposal, so now we have a new one, much more to the Arab side—as everybody sees.

So if we say yes now and the king says no, the result won't be that this will be the end of the story; it will be the end of this phase, and the next phase will start with an even more pro-Arab position than the one that we have now because political processes, as history, are not snapshots; they are movies, and they don't stop with a snapshot. That is why I don't think it would be wise to say yes to a proposal that gives a role to the superpowers and allows for a PLO participation, after which we will not be able to live with it.

[Haskell] But at the time the prime minister, Shamir, agreed to go to an opening with the United States and the USSR, we did not have the violence, the uprising in the territories, that we have today. How do you see the situation resolving itself?

[Meridor] You see, the connection between the violence and the Shultz visit here was not a positive connection. If the Arabs are somewhat euphoric, hilarious about what they have reached, it was because some of them think that they have been successful where other Arabs had not. They have been able by their stones, by the Molotov cocktails, by the killing of Jews—as we saw yesterday with the girl from Elon More—they have been able to move their business to the table, put it on the agenda, move even with the Americans and bring the secretary here. They feel that they have the strength in their hands, in which case they would be very stupid to stop it, they will go on.

So I would say that the visit here was not the most helpful thing in quieting violence. To quiet violence is something we have to do, and Secretary Shultz, when he was here, said to us that they, the Americans, see now that we are more in control than we were in control some weeks ago of the riots. I think we have seen yesterday a dreadful, cruel event when young boys and girls who went touring some part of the land, not causing any harm, not provoking anybody, were attacked; where a girl of 15 years of age, her head was smashed with a rock. She was killed. You should read what these people who were there say, how they felt the Arab mob around them, closing on them. It's frightening. We have to do more than we have done so far in order to quiet the riots.

[Haskell] Secretary Shultz referred to Israel's putting down the unrest of the rioting in the territories. He seemed to expect that it would subside, but he also said that Israel cannot ignore a solution to the problem of 1.5 million disenfranchised Palestinians, and that if some solution isn't found rather quickly, then Israel is going to pay a big penalty. Where is it all going to end, where is your answer, though, to a long-term rather than a short-time problem, the problem that is facing Israel?

[Meridor] Unfortunately, Israel is not faced by one problem. And I do not deny that there is a problem of 1.3 or 1.4 million Palestinian Arabs who are not citizens of Israel, who don't live under Israeli law but rather in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. But this is not the only problem. There's another minor problem, and the other minor problem is that if we retreat from those territories, we may not be able to defend ourselves against those people, against not only those people but the Arab countries around them.

If you look now at the Arab world, if you hear now and you read now about the missiles and the chemical warfare, starting from Syria and Iraq and Iran and Egypt and who not in the Arab world, you know what face will the war have in the next round, and you know what threats we face.

So the first thing that we have to take into account is that we have to keep our ability to defend ourselves. We won't be able to do it in the 1967 borders, and there is no Arab country, so far, including Jordan, who is ready under whatever circumstances to come and negotiate a compromise with us. Of course there is a problem. If there is a problem, we want to solve it; and we want to solve it in a negotiated manner.

We want the Arabs to come and negotiate with us. But so far, what we have seen is Arabs sending us to the PLO, telling us: Talk with them, they are your partners, although the PLO says Israel has no right to exist and we will destroy Israel in the end. And as long as we don't have a partner, we won't be able to solve it through negotiations. And seeing the situation as it is, we have first of all to be strong and make it clear to them that those ways that they are trying now, terrorist ways or warlike ways, will not bear any fruits, and then maybe they'll sit down and talk with us.

The fact that there is a problem is not new to me. The question is whether we have a solution to the problem. And I don't see it yet because I don't have a partner to talk with me about it yet.

[Haskell] But if George Shultz comes, who is a tried and proven friend of Israel, and he says: Look, give me a chance, I feel it in my bones, give me a yes and I'll try and work something out. Isn't this worth trying?

[Meridor] He has come to us with these words exactly 6 months ago, in October. We said yes to him; he heard a no from the Arabs. There was no attack in the world press against the Arabs who say no, even not by the Israelis who always attack our government—or Shamir's government or Shamir's position. They simply went on to Husayn's side.

So, as much as we know that Shultz is a good friend of Israel, and I say he is; and as much as I'm certain that he is convinced that his plan is good for Israel, we have to judge it on our own terms with our own eyes and along our own judgments. We think that if we sit in a room where not Jordan comes alone, but Syria and the PLO and the Russians and the Chinese and the rest of them, there is no slight chance, not the slightest, that we'll have real free negotiations with Jordan. We know exactly that the outcome would be that Israel would be advised, not forced, advised to withdraw to the 1967 borders.

We will have to say no. We will then really be blamed by the entire world, maybe including America, for blocking the road to peace and maybe bringing war nearer. So one has to think not just of Mr Shultz, who is a good friend of Israel, but on the contents of his proposal, and all this, unfortunately, is still very theoretical, because we don't have a yes from King Husayn and we don't have a yes from any other Arab partner to come and negotiate with us, even along the lines of Shultz' plan.

[Haskell] If Husayn did, however, come, if he did give a yes, do you think that Israel should also reply yes?

[Meridor] If Husayn would come, that is to say, Husayn says: I'm coming without the PLO, I'm coming with the Syrians, I accept that the 1967 borders will not be the final borders of Israel, accept that there won't be a Palestinian state, and I want to compromise with Israel, then we have an entirely new ball game.

[Haskell] Compromise on territory, on the West Bank?

[Meridor] I wouldn't say that he would ever speak of compromise on territory, because it's impossible for him, I think it's impossible for us. But a compromise along the lines of Camp David, a compromise along the lines of the Arabs being there, ruling their own affairs,

and we have the security, and Jews and Arabs trying to coexist in the land is the sort of compromise we can think of, because it's already in the government's basis, the guidelines, and Camp David. It's already there.

But every compromise that he may bring to the table can be discussed, and we have our opinion. He'll have his opinion. But so far we haven't seen the slightest sign that he has any reasons to come along these lines. So why reply theoretically to the question: What will happen if? So far he hasn't done it.

[Haskell] There are going to be some listeners at this point who are probably going to say that: Okay, we've heard Likud's position, Dan Meridor's position, and it's really being presented the way it is in order not to give up territory, not to give back parts of Judaea and Samaria. How do you react to that?

[Meridor] First of all, I have to admit that I believe Judaea and Samaria are part of my homeland, and I don't hesitate to say it is part of my homeland, my history, because of everything I know of these areas and because I need it for my security. But I know that there are other claims of sovereignty to this very part of the land, by the Arabs, whoever those Arabs are, which is why I say: Alright, there is a difficulty here, there is a real conflict, not a tactical one. Let's sit down and talk and try to resolve it.

After all, isn't it strange that when the Arabs say, take Husayn for one, or Zayd al-Rifa'i for one: Not an inch, it's all ours. As Zayd al-Rifa'i put it 2 months ago, the return of the territories including East Jerusalem is not negotiable, even not negotiable. It's alright with everybody. He can say it, and still say he wants peace. Alright, I say the same things, and I say: I want peace, which is exactly why, because of this gap, we have to sit down and try to talk. Even, by the way, if I were not of the same ideology as you know I am, for tactical reasons. If I were a Labor Party man, which I'm not, I would not start by saying: I don't want anything. I don't want an inch. Take it, it's a burden on me. Who will come and talk to you then?

[Haskell] No, but Peres says: No Palestinian state, no 1967 borders, and no PLO.

[Meridor] Yes, yes, this he says, but he says—Peres says again and again: The land and the people are a burden on us. They say: If we go on continuing occupying this land it will be an explosive from within Israel and so on and so forth. In other words, he tells the king: You know, dear king, it's so difficult for you to come, don't come, because anyway we have to give it up. It's a burden on us, not on you, the situation. Now, we can't hold on to it. So what reason is there, what incentive is there for the king to come?

But leave the tactics aside. Yes, there is a real conflict. We think it's our land, they think it's their land. The difference is only this: We are ready to sit down and talk and negotiate. We have a plan in the Camp David agreement. They say: We won't sit down unless the PLO and the Russians and the Chinese and all of them come and tell you what to do. And even if we sit down, we won't negotiate because it's not negotiable. Under these circumstances, is it fair or rational to come to us and ask us why don't we say more, when we say more than we need to say by now? We are ready to sit down and talk although, yes, we believe it's ours. They say: We won't sit down and talk. So this is how things stand, not differently.

Reports, Leaders' Comments on Bayta Incident

13 Bayta Buildings Demolished

TA081738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The IDF blew up another eight buildings belonging to Bayta residents involved in the attack on the Elon More children. In all, 13 buildings were blown up in the village.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that so far the security forces have investigated hundreds of local residents. The IDF is demanding that the locals report for an inquest, and many have heeded the order. To date, approximately 30 individuals have been apprehended.

Court Bans Further Demolitions

TA101033 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] A few minutes ago, the High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction ordering the commander of the Central Command to refrain from demolishing additional houses in the village of Bayta. Justice Menahem Eylon transferred the hearing of the appeal which was submitted by the Human Rights Association this morning to a panel of three judges. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack points out that the association appealed to the court on behalf of the inhabitants of Bayta because they are still under curfew.

Demolition Notices Required

TA110800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] This morning the High Court of Justice issued a ruling banning any further demolition of houses in the village of Bayta without a 2-day notice to allow owners to contact a lawyer. This was reported by our correspondent 'Adi Malul.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 11 April adds that in this morning's hearing, following the 24-hour interim injunction issued by the High Court of Justice yesterday, "the State Attorney's office agreed to allow Bayta residents to approach a lawyer and file an appeal, in the event that the IDF decides to demolish or board up houses in the village." At the same time, the State Attorney's office noted, "no houses in Bayta are currently slated for demolition."]

Shamir Defends Demolitions

TA110918 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense correspondent]

[Excerpts] Although the IDF probe into the death of Tirtza Porat has not yet been concluded, the IDF stands by its version that the 15-year-old girl was killed by a shot fired from the M-16 rifle of armed escort Romam Aldubi senior military sources said after yesterday's cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shamir said last night that there was no reason to wait until the conclusion of the investigation into the death of Tirtza Porat before destroying 14 houses in Bayta, where she was killed.

"It (the destruction of the houses) has nothing to do with the investigation," Shamir told THE JERUSALEM POST after addressing the Second International Christian Zionist Congress at Binyeney Ha'ooma. "There's no doubt that a great part of the population attacked the youngsters while they were on their excursion in the village."

Shamir painted a picture of events in Bayta that appeared to contradict IDF Chief of Staff Dan Shomron's statement to Israel Radio that most of the villagers of Bayta did not want to kill the Elon More teenagers.

"More or less, it's clear (what happened)," Shamir said. "There was an attempt to attack and to murder these young people."

Shamir was asked about the IDF's preliminary finding that a bullet fired from the gun of Romam Aldubi, the Elon More youths' armed escort, killed Porat. "Well, it's an incident, an accident, but we must still wait for the final results of the investigation," he said.

Shomron Analyzes Incident

TA081634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said that the Bayta incident should not be perceived as a model of a tough policy, or the opposite—of a weak stand—or as an indication of the IDF's wisdom. In a situation of very tense quiet rife with suspicions, a serious incident can evolve from even a misunderstanding—as was the case in this instance, the chief of staff said.

In an interview with our correspondent Karmela Menashe which will be broadcast on our weekly newsreel tomorrow morning, the chief of staff said we must not allow the fabric consisting of Jewish and Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria to engage in unnecessary friction. If this principle is closely followed, similar incidents could be avoided.

He claimed that the Arab residents did not in principle wish to inflict any harm upon the Jewish children, but someone in the village had been hurt even before they entered the village. The chief of staff pointed out that the children were not rescued by the IDF soldiers, but by local villagers who made sure no harm came to them, and that it was the villagers who called for an ambulance. I am convinced, the chief of staff said, that at the end of this process, it will become clear that the IDF took the correct action in the territories and carried out its missions mixing just the right doses of power and restraint.

Cabinet Discusses Incident

TA101029 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The cabinet session ended a short time ago. Cabinet members were told that the IDF and the police had not yet completed their investigation of the events in the village of Bayta and that consequently it was premature to determine the exact circumstances in which the late Tirtza Porat had met her death. The prime minister asked the defense minister to complete the investigation within the next few days and report the findings to the cabinet plenum.

Likud ministers criticized the IDF's conduct both during the incident, in the course of the ensuing investigation, and the subsequent leaks. Minister Sharon proposed that the serious incident be countered with the establishment of additional settlements and with tougher punishments, particularly the deportation of agitators and rioters. Sharon demanded a debate on his proposals, and the prime minister asked him to submit a written detailed proposal to the cabinet.

Minister David Levi said it is inconceivable that the security forces did not know what was happening in the village while the long incident was taking place. Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said in contrast that the settlers did not act wisely when they sent their children on a trip without any prior coordination.

The cabinet also decided on the inclusion of Mordekhay Gur and Moshe Arens in its ranks as ministers without portfolio.

Rabin Briefs Cabinet 10 Apr

TA101303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told the cabinet that the pathological examination reveals Tirtza Porat was shot from a short distance, and that the bullet entered her skull at an upward angle. These findings seemingly tie the security escort Romem Aldubi's weapon in to the shooting.

Other information relayed by the defense minister includes the fact that the hikers stayed in the village of Bayta unsupervised for a long while. The fact that they were not harmed reflects the Bayta residents' inclination.

At the conclusion of the debate, the prime minister announced that the cabinet would await the completion of the investigation by the security forces, when its conclusions are brought before the ministers.

Rabin Asserts 'Trust' in IDF

TA101910 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reaffirmed his confidence and complete trust in the IDF and its commanders, and condemned the attempts to discredit or taint the reputation of the army. The defense minister demands that all the parties and political bodies in Israel reject the few individuals who attempt to disgrace the IDF, and disassociate themselves from them. The army, says the defense minister in his communique, does not belong to any particular party. It belongs to the whole nation.

The defense minister expressed his full faith in the method employed by the IDF and other security elements in investigating the serious and tragic incident at Bayta. The defense minister also expressed his full faith in the main findings that have so far emerged from the investigation of the Bayta incident, as reported by himself and the chief of staff at the cabinet session today.

Shamir: 'Uprising' Part of Longstanding Conflict

TA110534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said the uprising in the territories is a continuation of the conflict which the Arabs launched against the State of Israel on the day it was established. Speaking to the Second Christian Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, Shamir said having lost four wars, Israel's enemies were trying to undermine her stability and security by a different method:

[Begin recording] Now they have resorted to the Khomeyni type of street violence, using women and children, rocks and firebombs that are lethal weapons, as we have seen to our sorrow. I promise you, in fact I guarantee it, that they will fail in this attempt as well. Peace does not mean tampering with the integrity of our country. Ninety years after the founding of the Zionist Movement and after 40 years of our statehood, we are not about to surrender our rights or portions of our God-given land. [end recording]

Over 1,000 Christians are taking part in the Christian Zionist Congress aimed at mustering support for Israel in the Christian world.

Shamir Meets With Demonstrating Settlers

TA092055 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] There were three demonstrations outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem this afternoon by the Kakh Movement; the leaders of the councils in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and the leftwing movement called The 21st Year. The police prevented any clashes among the demonstrators. Shamir is due to meet settler leaders at this hour.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 9 April reports on the meeting between Shamir and settlers' representatives, saying: "The heads of Judaea and Samaria settlements conferred with the prime minister this evening. They discussed the situation in the territories and the serious incident in the village of Bayta. The prime minister briefed them. Our correspondent Menahem Hadar reports that in view of the meeting with the prime minister, the settlement leaders are reconsidering continuing the protest vigil opposite the prime minister's residence, and are contemplating calling off the planned demonstration opposite the prime minister's office tomorrow during the cabinet session."]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

8 Inhabitants Deported 11 Apr

TA111415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Eight inhabitants of the territories were deported to Lebanon this afternoon. Five are residents of Gaza and three others from Judaea and Samaria. The IDF spokesman reports that the deportation orders against the eight were issued because the eight are senior activists in the terrorist organizations and have carried out acts of incitement and subversion. Several of them are among the leaders of the agitators and organizers of the violent disturbances which have recently occurred in the territories.

Most of the people against whom the deportation orders have been issued are former prisoners who spent long terms in prison due to acts of terrorism and incitement. Administrative steps had been taken against some of them in the past, but this did not prevent the continuation of their grave actions and therefore they were deported.

12 More Deportations Ordered

TA111517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] This morning the Military Government issued deportation orders against 12 more inhabitants of the territories, among them 6 residents from the village of Bayta. The rest are from Gaza, Al-Birah, and Ramallah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the orders against the 12 were issued

because they are senior activists in terrorist organizations and were active in acts of incitement and subversion. Some of them were among those who organized the disturbances in the territories recently.

The six Bayta residents who received the deportation orders participated in the attack on the Elon More hikers. The twelve are entitled to appeal to a special appeal board attached to the commanders of the various commands, and later they can appeal to the High Court of Justice.

'Serious' Riots in Bayt Immar

TA091510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Property was damaged yesterday in the village of Bayt Immar in the Hebron District when an IDF unit cleared roads leading to the village. Military sources have reported that the circumstances of the incident will be investigated tomorrow by senior officers.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there were serious disturbances in Bayt Immar yesterday and that the villagers blocked the entrance to the village with refuse and large rocks. Army units were summoned and they reopened the access roads with bulldozers. The local inhabitants contend that buildings, sheds, and many vehicles were damaged in the course of that operation. A local youth was shot and slightly wounded during the dispersal of a demonstration there. The soldiers suspected that he was about to throw a Molotov cocktail at them.

Police Pull Out of E. Jerusalem

TA091945 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1932 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at a shop owned by Arabs on (Al-Khalabiyah) Road in the Old City of Jerusalem. It blew up outside the shop, and the merchandise was only slightly damaged. Our correspondent Uri Cohen-Aharonov adds that Police Inspector General Kraus, who toured Jerusalem today, said that the police were going to pull forces out of the East Jerusalem neighborhoods, and redeploy in the vicinity.

TV Crews Barred From W. Bank

TA091957 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] It was quiet today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Only sporadic incidents were noted. Near Janin, a youth was slightly hurt during the dispersal of a gathering, and opposite the Al-Burayj refugee camp, a youth was injured by gunfire shots under similar circumstances.

Our correspondent reports that according to the leaflets distributed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, the inhabitants of the territories should have stepped up the disturbances today, upon the 4th-month anniversary of the uprising. Yet, despite these calls, quiet prevailed in most of the the areas today.

Our correspondent Elisha' Spiegelman reports that IDF roadblocks prevented television crews from filming footage in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nabulus, and Janin even though the roads were open to Jewish and Arab civilians.

In response to the above, the IDF spokesman said that the IDF may have been alerted to possible disturbances in those places.

4 Reported Wounded in Nabulus

TA100440 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] In Nabulus, two people were wounded by army gunfire and two others injured by blows. The reports on the injuries were received by the Military Administration. Arab sources say the number of casualties is higher and that five people were injured by the gunfire. Security sources are investigating the cause of the injuries.

Last night, police entered the premises of the Arab newspaper AL-FAJR in Jerusalem. They did not carry out a search of the offices. The police spokesman says a crime was committed in the area, and the police were searching for the suspect without knowing that they had entered the AL-FAJR offices.

Detentions in Dayr al-Balah

TA101628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The IDF detained Dayr al-Balah residents in reaction to the attack last week on an Israeli couple and the burning of their car. Dayr al-Balah is under curfew. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that apart from this activity, all was quiet in the Gaza Strip today. Workers left for their jobs, and studies were held normally.

Pamphlet No 13 Praises Bayta

TA101904 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Pamphlet No 13, signed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, the content of which was broadcast over the PLO's radio station from Baghdad, praises the inhabitants of Bayta for giving the wild settlers hell, as the phrasing of the pamphlet goes. It calls for a fund-raising campaign to be held on Wednesday in the territories for the benefit of the Bayta residents. Our Arab affairs correspondent says that the pamphlet repeats the call for the resignation of the municipal council members, policemen, and internal revenue employees.

The upcoming month of Ramadan will change the pattern of the strike. Thus, stores will open for 3 hours in the afternoon.

The leaflet also urges the Arabs to halt construction work in the settlements and to stop providing services. It warns Arab businessmen against reducing their employees' pay.

Merchants Request End to Strike

TA101919 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Seventeen merchants with businesses in Hebron's wholesale market appealed to the municipality on the eve of the Passover holiday with a request that they be allowed to keep their businesses open all day long, as was the normal practice prior to the uprising. The request was transferred to the Civilian Administration, but it has not responded to it yet.

Our correspondent Gil Sadan notes that this marks a deviation from the policy that has prevailed to date, according to which stalls in the wholesale market operate only during the morning hours. As will be recalled, the IDF has forbidden selective opening of the shops. This is the first time the merchants have made a formal request that the strike end. Our correspondent has learned that in other parts of Judaea and Samaria shopowners have also organized to resume commercial life.

26-Day Qalqilyah Curfew Lifted

TA110636 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The curfew on Qalqilyah has been lifted after 26 days during which the city was completely closed. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

IDF Exchanges Land for 'Peace Agreement'

TA100829 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Apr 88 p A1

[Report by Ben Kaspit]

[Text] Over the weekend, the IDF struck a semi-official and detailed "peace agreement" with an Arab village in the Jericho area which had recently been the site of large-scale disturbances and riots.

Negotiations between the IDF and local dignitaries lasted quite a few days. In the framework of the agreement, the army gave back to the village an area of 3,000 dunums which had been confiscated after the 6-Day War. The villagers also received a promise to be allocated water to cultivate the land.

Officers attending the event said that upon getting back their land, villagers became very emotional and were on the verge of tears. According to the officers, the agreement reflects the success of the special policy adopted by the IDF in the Jordan Rift Valley in general, and in Jericho in particular. There had recently been numerous riots in the Jericho area.

"We do not need tear gas or gravel launchers," the officers told MA'ARIV. "Also, we are not ashamed of being photographed while punishing or beating up Arabs who throw stones or riot. On the contrary, we must show the whole world that the IDF punishes those who attack it," they noted.

New Arab Party Holds Founding Convention

TA092046 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The founding convention of a new Arab party, the Arab Democratic Party [Hamiflaga Hademoqratit Ha'arvit] was held in Nazareth today. The initiative to set up the party came from Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah who left the Labor Party approximately 3 months ago. Arab heads of local councils have already signed up as members of the new Arab party. They had called for the establishment of a joint peace front with the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and MAPAM some time ago. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports on the new party:

[Begin recording] ['Azran] The final decision on the establishment of the party was reached after all the efforts made by its founding fathers to set up a Jewish-Arab leftist front, in conjunction with leftist Zionist parties, failed. The CRM and MAPAM ultimately decided to go on separate lists to the Knesset elections, although initially some members of both parties urged going on a joint ticket with the Arabs. The initiative came from MK Darawshah, who seceded from the Labor Party.

[Darawshah] We were sorely disappointed by the prevailing system. Voting for the Zionist parties has let us down. They wanted us as a bloc of votes, not as partners to decisions. The protest vote, on the other hand, did not live up to our expectations. We want an influential vote so that we could participate in the decision-making process. Domestically, we want to obtain equality, while in foreign affairs we will strive to obtain a just peace that would guarantee the rights of the two peoples: the Palestinian people and the Israeli people.

['Azran] Heads of Arab local councils who had earlier supported the establishment of a joint Jewish-Arab leftist front have already joined Darawshah's party. The new party is not totally dismissing future cooperation with a certain framework of Zionist-Jewish parties.

[Darawshah] I welcome every form of cooperation with any party which appears on the map as a sane and decent party prepared to take part in the decisionmaking process with the aim of obtaining a just peace and full equality for all the citizens of the state. We furthermore wish to deepen Jewish-Arab coexistence in this country. The party will provide us with a proper, sincere, and strong stage to work toward this. [end recording]

Further on Visit by George Shultz to Amman

Holds News Conference, Departs

JN081137 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that dialogue among the United States, the parties to the dispute, and the permanent Security Council member states will continue to push the peace process in the Middle East forward.

Shultz left Amman for London this morning at the end of his second tour of the Middle East, during which he held intensive talks on the U.S. initiative to bring about peace in the region. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the U.S. ambassador in Amman, and a number of officials.

Before leaving, the U.S. secretary of state held a new conference this morning. He talked about his efforts within the framework of the U.S. initiative to find a political settlement to the Middle East crisis. At the beginning of his news conference, Shultz expressed his thanks to and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and the Jordanian officials.

He said: We have just ended a round of intensive talks in Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel. He added: Our goal has been to find a positive spirit toward the peace initiative. We have discovered that all parties want us to continue our initiative seriously. Our goal is still the same; namely, a comprehensive peace that can achieve peace and security for all parties and meet the requirements of the Palestinian people. He added: We are looking forward to holding negotiations based on Security Council Resolution No 242 as a whole and an international conference prepared in a sound way.

Al-Rifa'i Discusses Visit

JN090812 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i revealed details of Jordan's position on U.S. Middle East peace proposals Friday and said the Kingdom was willing to continue the dialogue with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the implementation of the "basic principles" that guarantee a just and comprhensive settlement to the Palestine question.

Al-Rifa'i said His Majesty King Husayn had handed Shultz a six-point document containing principles binding any movement towards an acceptable settlement to the Middle East problem. He said the King told Shultz that Jordan's position regarding the American proposals would be "determined by the extent to which it corresponds to these principles."

The prime minister told journalists that during talks here differences emerged between the Jordanian and American sides over the question of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the proposed international peace conference and Palestinian representation at any peace negotiations. He pointed out that the American position was not final but that Jordan adhered to the universally accepted principles for launching Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

He described these principles as "non-negotiable," but that the Kingdom was ready to resume dialogue with Washington towards reaching an acceptable formula for peace in the region. He said Washington was responding postiively to the Jordanian stand and inching closer to the Kingdom's perception of the land-for-peace formula and the bases for convening an effective international peace conference.

In his meeting with newspaper editors and leading commentators in the local media, the prime minister said Jordan was willing to negotiate the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 but not the resolution itself. He said the principles of 242 apply to all the occupied Arab territories "and are the basis for negotiations in the proposed international conference's bilateral committees."

He rejected the notion of an international conference as "merely a ceremonial international gathering structured for the sole purpose of launching direct negotiations."

"It should reflect the moral and constant weight of the five permanent memebrs of the Security Council in assisting all the parties to the conflict to arrive at a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

He reaffirmed Jordan's stand that it will not represent the Palestinian people at the conference. "Nor will it negotiate the settlement of the Palestinian problem on behalf of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO)," Al-Rifa'i said.

The prime minister indicated that the American proposals were not a final position by the U.S. Administration on peace negotiations and that Shultz would be discussing his talks in the region with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in a meeting scheduled to take place within two weeks.

Al-Rifa'i underlined that Jordan's position did not constitute a rejection of the American initiative, but that it was rather and affirmation of Jordan's unwavering position to dispel any false interpretations or doubts. "The situation is not a matter of take-it-or-leave-it," he said.

Jordan's position, he said, was coordinated with other Arab states and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council with the exception of the United States. He said the Jordanian position was

declared in order to remove doubts that the Kingdom may be "competing" with the PLO at the expense of the Palestinian people. "All such scepticism is unfounded," Al-Rifa'i stressed.

Describing the talks with Shultz, Al-Rifa'i said that at the beginning there was a "measure of naivete" in the American position, bordering on bad intentions and an American acceptance of the Israeli view as "the only acceptable thing."

He said the Jordanian and American sides "were not speaking the same language" during early discussions on Resolution 242 but that the American position was becoming more flexible. "There is a difference between 242 as a basis for negotiations and saying that the principles of 242 apply to all the occupied Arab territories," Al-Rifa'i explained.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interprets Resolution 242 as not calling for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories but part of the territories and that "since the resolution deals with the occupation of Arab lands and not different Arab parties, then the withdrawal from Sinai had constituted a withdrawal from Arab territories and that there was no commitment for withdrawal from all occupied lands."

"This means that Shamir is saying that Israel has implemented the withdrawal called for by the U.S. resolution," Al-Rifa'i said.

Al-Rifa'i said the American side was "beginning to become more aware of the Israeli intentions which we are more aware of and becoming more conscious of the (Israeli) threat and of the importance of accuracy in every phrase." Jordan insisted that the basis of any peaceful settlement should be an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, on all fronts, Al-Rifa'i said. "Otherwise, it would be surrender and not peace."

Stressing the need to solve the Palestine problem on all its aspects, Al-Rifa'i said that Resolution 242 "does not deal with the Palestine problem but talks about the removal of occupation and a conflict involving Arab states whose territories were occupied and Israel after the 1967 war." He said Resolution 242, "ignores the Palestinian cause and deals with the problem as that of refugees."

"There is more to the Palestinian cause than the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip the Palestinian people had rights before 1967, including the right of return. We have reminded the Untied States that a great number of Palestinians (from pre-1948 Palestine) form the biggest refugee camps now in the West Bank and Gaza. It is not just a matter of an agreement between Jordan and Israel and Syria and Israel to solve the problem. The Arab-Israeli conflict is the by-product of the Palestine problem," he said.

"No solution to the conflict can be achieved separate from a comprehensive and collective settlement with the commitment of all concerned parties... there is no room for separate arrangements or phased solutions. A solution must include everybody—Jordan, Syria and the PLO, in addition to the recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination." The prime minister said Jordan had "reminded the Americans that we are in favour of Palestinian self- determination. It is a sacred and natural right."

He said that the PLO had always misinterpreted the Jordanian position on self-determination. He said the PLO insisted on self-determination and an independent Palestinian state led by the PLO.

"When the PLO insists to lead that Palestinian state, then what happens to the principle of self-determination? We must stop at the right to self-determination and the rest could be left for later."

He said Jordan had asked Washington to acknowledge the Palestinian right to self-determination "and object to PLO-led Palestinian state if it wished to do so."

He said Shultz "is now talking about the future of Palestinians to go around self-determination."

He said Jordan put many questions to the Americans on this and other points and that the Kingdom was awaiting an answer. The questions include some that are related to determining who will be considered as Palestinian people, and whether it would only mean the Palestinians under Israeli occupation or would include Palestinians in the diaspora, Al-Rifa'i said.

"If it included Palestinians in the diaspora, as it should, how do they practise their rights? Would these rights be civil rights, political rights or national rights?"

Al-Rifa'i said there are some questions that the PLO itself needs to answer and that he hoped Jordan and the organisation would resume talks soon. He raised the question of Palestinians residing in Jordan who carry Jordanian passports. "I consider everyone living in this country and carries the Jordanian passport as Jordanian until he tells me he is not," he said. The same situation applies to Israeli Arabs living in Israel and carrying Israeli passports, he said.

Rejecting Shamir's reported acceptance of a ceremonial international conference to serve as an opening for direct negotiations, Al-Rifa'i said the idea was "all nonsense." He said Jordan's insistence on an effective conference emanated from the need to begin negotiations based on international legimacy. "We want a conference that is effective in its contents, scope and mechanism, and which establishes the bases for negotiations," he said.

Al-Rifa'i said Jordan's talks with leaders of Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union showed that these countries "were aware of the importance of what we are talking about."

He said Jordan agrees that the conference could not impose solutions but underlined the importance of negotiations to be conducted on the basis of international law and international resolutions. Al-Rifa'i said Jordan's position was coordinated with Syria and the Soviet Union. He said Syria had proposed that the conference should have "the right to interpret the principles" of international law.

"We want to negotiate the implementation of international law and not the principle itself,", Al- Rifa'i stressed.

He said matters related to Israel's "security" could be dealt with adequately when Israel accepts the implementation of Resolution 242, stressing that 1967 borders were not established borders. "They are armistice lines and are not considered permanent. There may be some modifications on this line to tackle the question of Israel's security requirements when the line is made a permanent border," the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that Jordan did not object to separate Palestinian and Jordanian delegations to the proposed conference. He said Jordan was also willing to go to the conference with a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation "if the PLO and other parties agreed."

"We do not insist on any particular form of representation," he said. "We only insist that Syria and the PLO must attend." However, he added, "We are not the only ones to decide." He was referring to Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO and American reservations on dealing with the organisation.

Asked about the U.S. position, Al-Rifa'i said he expected a possible change in the American position on PLO representation at the conference. Citing Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO, he said: "If they say it is impossible to have a conference with the PLO, I say it is impossible to have one without them."

"There is no final agreement (with the Americans) on many issues," Al-Rifa'i said, "but that does not mean there is rejection. We have raised many questions they did not think about."

Asked whether he was optimistic, the prime minister said: "It is not a matter of being optimistic or pessimistic. We are dealing with proposals. We do not reject any movement that aims to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. We will not reject the initiative and tell (Shultz) go home, don't talk to us. At the same time, we do not accept any initiative that does not secure the rights of the Palestinian people. We are ready to continue the dialogue indefinitely. We will not cut any cords or close any doors. We will deal with initiatives within the binds of our basic principles."

The Palestinian uprising on its own, the prime minister said, is not capable of liberating the occupied territories. He said the uprising must be made to serve Palestinian interests. "The uprising is the new war that has caused movement in the region. Shultz is here because of the uprising," he added.

The prime minister ruled out any serious American pressure on Israel, but added that Washington "is aware that if Shamir wins (the next Israeli elections), the region would be heading towards a dangerous stage."

Al-Rifa'i's meeting with representatives of the Jordanian press at the Ministry of Information was attended by Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah.

'Official Statement' Released

JN090823 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 88 p 1

["Full text" of "official statement" released to journalists during press conference held by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in Amman on 8 April]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Zayd al-Rifa'i, declared that His Majesty the King handed to Mr. George Shultz, the American secretary of state, during the talks held in Amman over the past three days, a paper which included the basic principles which Jordan adheres to in any process to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. These principles are:

A. The inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is the basis for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the establishment of a just and durable peace.

B. The settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires the settlement of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

C. The settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem must be a comprehensive settlement. Negotiations to arrive at a comprehensive settlement can only take place with the international conference.

D. The international conference will not be merely a ceremonial international gathering structured for the sole purpose of launching direct negotiations. It should reflect the moral and constant weight of the five permanent members of the Security Council in assisting all the parties to the conflict to arrive at a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

E. The principles of Security Council Resolution 242 apply to all the occupied Arab territories and are the basis for negotiations in the bilateral committees.

F. In excercising its sovereign right, Jordan is prepared to attend the international conference, with the other interested parties. Jordan will not represent the Palestinian people at the conference nor it will [as published] negotiate the settlement of the Palestinian problem on behalf of the PLO. Jordan is also prepared to attend the conference in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the concerned parties accepted this arrangement.

The prime minister added that His Majesty stated that Jordan's position regarding the American initiative is determined by the extent to which it corresponds to these principles.

Mr. Shultz said that the dialogue between the United States and the parties to the conflict, as well as the permanent members of the Security Council, will continue to advance the Middle East peace process.

2 Injured in Explosion at Government Department

JN091134 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1109 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following:

The official spokesman has stated the following:

At 1130 today, Saturday, 9 April 1988, an explosive charge weighing 1 kilogram of TNT went off at the side entrance of the main building of the vehicles and drivers licensing department in Marka [Amman area]. The charge was maliciously placed under the staircase which is used by the citizens [visiting the department] to submit their applications and was timed so it would explode at this particular time when the place is crowded with citizens.

God, who protects this dear homeland and its citizens, has willed that this criminal action should result only in injuring two citizens, who are now being treated at a hospital, and in inflicting some material damage to the building.

The official spokesman would like to draw attention to the fact that the timing of this cowardly action coincides with the announcement of Jordan's pan-Arab, distiguished position under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn in defending Arab rights in Palestine and in all the occupied Arab territories.

Black September Claims Blast

JN111117 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] In Beirut a spokesman for the Palestinian organization Black September has claimed responsibility for the bomb that exploded at a Jordanian Government department on 9 April.

In a statement released to the press the spokesman says Black September will continue to strike at King Husayn's interests until he desists from conspiring against the Palestinian revolution.

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner Condemned

JN081152 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1110 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has stated that the Jordanian Government denounces the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and the hijackers' threats to the safety of the passengers. He said this flagrant aggression and previous aggressions against Kuwaiti interests and territory have been motivated by a series of actions various parties are undertaking to influence Kuwait's national stands, particularly its stand on the Iraq-Iran war.

Al-Masri added: We are confident fraternal Kuwait will not submit to terrorism or to blackmail and that the international community will support Kuwait and condemn these terrorist operations.

Al-Masri stressed the Jordanian Government will do everything in its power to release the Kuwaiti airliner and to secure the safety of the hostages and will carry out urgent diplomatic contacts with countries which can influence the Iranian Government in this respect.

Hijacked Kuwaiti Plane Situation Continues

Syrian Troops Shoot at Plane

NC081628 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] According to the latest reports regarding the hijacked plane, the captain today threatened to land at Beirut International Airport by force. The captain told the air traffic controller: I want to land. Do you want me to make a forced landing? However, the air traffic controller adamantly refused to permit the plane to land.

According to REUTER, the Syrian forces fired twice at the hijacked plane as it was circling over Beirut Airport for the seventh time this afternoon. The agency said that scores of Syrian soldiers deployed on the runways and fired two shots at the plane as the captain was entreating the control tower and Lebanese officials to permit him to land.

Plane May Return to Beirut

NC082141 Paris AFP in English 2133 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 8 (AFP)—A hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner that landed at Larnaca airport in Cyprus late on Friday may head back to Beirut, a caller claiming to speak for the hijackers said here.

"Our brothers who hijacked the plane will return to Beirut airport, as they intend negotiating with Kuwaiti officials from Beirut," he told the Sunni Moslem Voice of the Nation radio station.

The caller reportedly spoke with an Iraqi-Arabic accent and claimed to represent a group calling itself the Organization of Justice and Liberty.

The Lebanese authorities had earlier prevented the Boeing 747 Kuwait Airways plane from landing at Beirut International Airport (BIA). The pilot had made repeated requests while overflying Lebanon for three hours for permission to land at Beirut.

He threatened to crash-land when permission was refused, but later flew on to Cyprus.

The hijackers are demanding the release of 17 Islamic fundamentalists held in Kuwait for a series of bomb attacks in December 1983 targeting U.S., French and Kuwaiti interests.

U.S., French Hostages Threatened

NC101913 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1902 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Developments concerning the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner at the Larnaca airport oscillate between Cypriot optimism and a threat by the Islamic Jihad organization to kill foreign hostages in Beirut.

According to the latest information, the Islamic Jihad organization threatened a short time ago to kill all French and U.S. hostages it is holding in Beirut in the event the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, which has been standing at the Larnaca airport since last Friday, is attacked.

In a statement sent to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the organization emphasized that it will execute the foreign hostages in Lebanon if the plane and the mujahidin, as the statement describes them, are subjected to a foolish military action. The statement was accompanied by a coloured picture of hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann and U.S. hostage Terry Anderson. [passage omitted]

Cypriot Government Threatened

NC101933 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, April 10 (AFP)—The militant Islamic Jihad Organization Sunday threatened to kill all French and American hostages it is holding in Lebanon if a hijacked Kuwaiti jet now in Cyprus is stormed.

"We'll execute the Western hostages in Lebanon if the plane and the 'mujahidin' (Moslem fighters) are subjected to military folly," the Shi'ite organization said in a statement released to a Western news agency here.

It also held the Cypriot Government "totally responsible for whatever unfolds on its territory."

Any (military) operation "will adversely affect the Cypriot Government and people," the statement warned. [passage omitted]

Syria Seeks Release of 3 French Hostages

NC101758 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Reliable press sources have learned from a source close to the French delegation which has held negotiations for the release of Marcel Fontaine, Marcel Carton, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann, the three French hostages in Lebanon, that Syria will continue its efforts to secure the release of the three hostages. The press sources expect these hostages to be released in a few hours.

Further on Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah

2 Germans 'Liberated' by Amal

LD081427 Hamburg DPA in German 1347 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—Two German members of an aid organization who fell into Hizballah hands during fighting between two rival Shi'ite militias, and who were held in a mosque for 3 days, have been released, security circles report.

The Shi'ite Amal Movement confirmed that the two Germans had been "liberated" from a mosque taken over by "Hizballah" 47 km south of Beirut. Members of Amal had stormed the mosque, discovered the two captives, and taken them to their organization's base in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon.

The two Germans, a man and a woman, whose names are not yet known, are members of an organization which looks after Palestinians in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camp. Both of those freed said that they had been treated well.

Amal 'Hunting Down' Hizballah

NC090659 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Within the context of the Amal-Hizballah dispute, tension continues to prevail in certain areas in the south, particularly Al-Nabatiyah. Meanwhile, the Ulema Committee, which is made up of delegations from Hizballah, the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, and the Amal Movement, has so far failed to inspect the areas of clashes, due to numerous obstacles. The Amal Movement has prevented the committee from inspecting the areas because it is still carrying out storming operations and hunting down Hizballah members. [passage omitted]

In another development, an official Hizballah source has said that the battle against the Amal Movement is not over and declined to comment on the military results. AFP reported that Hizballah took Al-Sharqiyah from Amal yesterday.

Syrian Forces Tighten 'Noose'

NC091843 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Citing well-informed sources, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reports that intensive consultations are taking place in the southern suburb of Beirut and in the areas east of Sidon between prominent Hizballah officials and Palestinian leaders loyal to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The aim of these contacts is to coordinate positions and assess the new situation brought about by the recent Amal-Hizballah fighting, and Hizballah's loss of some strategic locations in southern Lebanon.

The same sources say Syrian intelligence is closely monitoring these activities in the southern suburb. The Syrian forces have tightened the noose on some entrances to the southern suburb. Syrian soldiers manning checkpoints on the way to Burj al-Barajinah and the camps are inspecting passing cars. The Syrian soldiers carry lists of wanted persons accused of coordinating between Hizballah and Palestinian leaders loyal to 'Arafat.

Within the framework of this surveillance, Syrian forces confiscated an UNRWA truck traveling from Sidon to Burj al-Barajinah yesterday. The truck was carrying 30 tons of foodstuffs. Syrian forces have begun to search some trucks for fear they might be used to transport weapons.

Last Hizballah Stronghold Seized

NC092108 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The AFP correspondent in Tyre has confirmed that the Amal Movement seized control this evening of Hizballah's last stronghold in south Lebanon when Hizballah gunmen who have been entrenched in Siddiqin since Thursday surrendered. The correspondent said that 30 Hizballah gunmen and the imam of Siddiqin were surrounded in the religious school by 150 Amal gunmen.

'Abd al-Mun'im Muhannah, the imam of the town, emerged from the school this evening and negotiated the surrender of the Hizballah gunmen with Da'ud Da'ud, chairman of Amal's Executive Committee. The surrender was effected in the evening. It has been reported that three of these gunmen, who have been accused of killing the Amal official in Siddiqin during the Amal-Hizballah clashes on Tuesday, are to be handed over to the Amal Movement.

Islamic Resistance Ambushes Israeli Patrol

NC091703 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] In the resisting south, the Islamic Resistance issued a statement saying that its fighters have ambushed a Zionist enemy patrol near Markaba in Jazzin District, destroying two tanks and a troop carrier and killing or wounding the 25 members of the patrol.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon Camps, Beirut

NC101927 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been carrying out reconnaissance sorties over the camps in the Sidon area since 2015 tonight [time as received]. At approximately 2030 [as received], these planes flew over the mountain area, Al-Damur, and Beirut. The Israeli warplanes drew antiaircraft fire.

Al-Shar' Receives Call From Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN081558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a phone call from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad this afternoon. During the call, the Kuwaiti foreign minister informed Al-Shar' that the hijacked Kuwaiti plane left Mashhad Airport for an unknown destination. He also thanked him for the efforts Syria has exerted since the plane was hijacked.

In Tehran, a SANA correspondent quoted diplomatic circles in the Iranian capital today as saying that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has received several phone calls and messages from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' urging joint cooperation to save the lives of all the passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane.

Diplomatic circles in Tehran noted that the Iranian officials have responded to Syrian efforts, which took place at the request of the Kuwaiti Government to end the plane's ordeal. These circles said the Iranian authorities voiced readiness to storm the plane and free the hostages after the hijackers announced their adherence to their conditions. But the Kuwaiti authorities did not give their official approval of the storming operation for fear of the results of such an operation.

The hijacked Kuwaiti plane took off from Mashhad Airport this afternoon with 50 people aboard to an unknown destination after it was refueled.

Soviet MiG-31's, Other Aircraft To Arrive

JN100950 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU' in Arabic 7 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Syria may acquire an arms package from the Soviet Union in the next few months. The package includes the most sophisticated Soviet warplanes with the aim of achieving parity with the enemy Air Force and confronting continued Zionist threats to strike at Syrian positions.

Special sources in Beirut told AL-ITTIHAD that the important talks held by a Soviet delegation headed by Marshal of Aviation Yefimov, commander in chief of the USSR Air Force, and comprising an elite group of Air Force experts which has been visiting Damascus for the past 2 days, dealt with the possibility of supplying Syria with Tupolev-22 planes, which are considered the first world bombers, and the sophisticated MiG-31 planes, in addition to the huge Antonov-124 transport planes.

The sources said a number of Syrian pilots are expected to be sent to Moscow soon for training on these aircraft.

Afghanistan

'Extremist' Missile Downs Plane; 29 Killed

LD101626 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] At a time when our people are on the eve of signing the Geneva accords on a peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan and when all efforts have been made to maintain peace and to end the war and fratricide in our country, extremist criminals have resorted to another shocking action and have caused a number of our compatriot families to mourn.

The BIA military correspondent reports that at around 1510 today, an AN-26 passenger aircraft flying from Meymaneh airport to Mazar-e Sharif was hit by a ground-to-air missile belonging to the extremists and was brought down. As a result of this savage action by the extremists, 23 passengers and 6 crew were martyred. The report adds that two children and eight women who were in the aircraft were among those martyred.

On hearing of this painful incident, President Najibullah expressed profound sorrow and extended his sympathy to the families of those who were sacrificed to this criminal action of the extremists.

'Extremists' Kill 13 in Meymaneh City Attack

LD101658 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Armed extremist elements using heavy weapons aimed against various parts of Meymaneh city, have again displayed their anti-Islamic and antipopular essence against maintaining peace and realizing the policy of national reconciliation.

According to a report by the BIA military section, as a result of this action by the armed extremists, 13 of our compatriots including children and women were martyred and another 44 were wounded. The report adds that the wounded were immediately taken to the hospital and their condition has been reported as satisfactory.

Gulabzoy Assassination Attempt in Kabul Fails

LD101121 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1022 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 10 (TANJUG)—The rebel informations service AAP [AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY] claims that an assassination of Afghan Interior Minister Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy was attempted in Kabul on April 4.

According to the information, so far unconfirmed by the official Afghan or the independent sources in Islamabad, a bomb was planted in the minister's car. Gulabzoy was approaching the car when the bomb exploded, but was not injured. It is claimed that his chauffeur and escort were killed.

By launching the information on the assassination attempt on the interior minister in the Kabul government, the rebel sources are evidently trying to support the indications about a flaring-up of factional strife between the Parchami and Khalqi factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Gulabzoy is a member of the supressed Khalqi and is the only Khalqi politician to remain at the top for the whole 10-year period after the revolution.

Hikmatyar Rejects Geneva Accord, Warns Pakistan

BK081648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1637 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 8 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance seven-party alliance Friday rejected United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez's call to support the Geneva accord and strongly warned Pakistan against signing the draft.

Leader of the alliance Gulbuddin Hikmatyar issued a lengthy statement from his Pakistani headquarters in Peshawar saying "this agreement cannot stop the war in Afghanistan".

The mujahidin resistance had been struggling against the presence of Soviet troops and the imposition of a puppet regime on the Afghan people and the war would continue until the twin objectives were achieved, he said.

The U.N. peace negotiator Friday announced the successful culmination of his six years' effort in getting agreement on a settlement and called on Afghans inside and outside the country to "respond to this historic opportunity" of ending an eight-year Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan.

Mr. Hikmatyar said if the purpose of the Geneva accord was to ensure the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland then "it cannot happen". They could go back "only when the Russians are completely gone, their puppet regime is toppled and the possibilites of war are dispensed with", he said.

Mr. Hikmatyar warned that if Pakistan signed the accord with the Kabul regime it will lose the respect and credibility which it enjoyed for 10 years by courageously supporting the Afghan jihad (holy war)".

The refugees will consider that Islamabad left them midway and "the consequent disgruntlement among the Afghans cannot be erased easily".

Mr. Hikmatyar also lashed out at the two superpowers' reported agreement to keep supplying the warring factions.

"Continuation of support to the mujahidin after signing the agreement will mean that this agreement was signed to be violated," he said.

He also doubted whether attacks on Pakistan and violation of its airspace by planes from Afghanistan would cease after the Geneva documents were signed.

He said it would have been much better to sign the agreement after it had ensured a comprehensive settlement of the crisis.

As far as the mujahidin are concerned, he said, "they will not be bound by the outcome of the Geneva agreements... No agreement can be implemented in Afghanistan without the consent of the mujahidin".

Commentary Assesses Geneva Accord Achievements
LD092217 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Afghanistan's 6-year-old efforts, in the framework of the Afghanistan-Pakistan talks through the special UN envoy, are nearing a successful conclusion. They will provide a politically settlement for the situation surrounding Afghanistan, ensure peace, and stabilize the situation in the region.

The Afghan-Soviet joint communique on the political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan demonstrates the two countries' resolute determination and goodwill to remove the final obstacles to agreement in Geneva, and it has paved the way for the eventual success of the talks. Special UN envoy Diego Cordovez said at a press conference in Geneva that all the Geneva agreement's documents have been finalized and are ready for signing by the two sides.

In addition, 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, who leads the Afghan delegation to the Geneva talks, in a telephone interview, asserted that the text of all the documents related to the Geneva agreements had then, on 8 April, been finalized and that talks were being conducted concerning technical and protocol matters. The Geneva agreements are to be signed on Thursday 14 April.

Undoubtedly the achievement of the Geneva agreements will be a great step toward the fulfilling long-standing Afghan wishes: the cessation of war and fratricide, the creation of a peaceful atmosphere, and the development of healthy relations between the countries of the region.

The Geneva agreements concern bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, especially noninterference in each other's internal affairs' international guarantees by the Soviet Union and the United States; the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homeland; and the withdrawal of the limited Soviet Army contingents from Afghanistan. In addition, a fifth document is also included in the Geneva agreements: a document on UN supervision of the implementation of the agreement's provisions.

The signing of this agreement will open wide the doors of hope for comprehensive peace in our country. Contrary to the statements and pessimistic predictions of some Western circles to the effect that the Geneva agreement would not be able to end the bloodshed and war in our country, all peace-loving and sincere people believe that as a result of the constructive initiatives and flexible stances of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union there is a historic opportunity which could lead to a comprehensive and political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. Most Afghans need peace like air in order to breathe. Our people are tired of the war and fratricide imposed on our country from outside.

Not only will the Geneva agreement lead to the cessation of foreign interference, but it will also create favorable and necessary conditions for the acceleration of national and comprehensive agreement among all involved forces.

The Republic of Afghanistan has already given its sincere guarantees for the full and comprehensive implementation of the agreement and wishes that the other sides will also act as constructively and with such good intentions toward implementing the agreements, and that they will make an honest effort to settle the situation surrounding Afghanistan, a difficult regional conflict, and to ensure regional and international peace.

Hatif Lauds Tashkent Statement With USSR
LD090543 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 8, BAKHTAR—"I, on behalf of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, fully support the joint Afghan-Soviet statement which was signed in Tashkent, capital of Uzbek SSR on April 7, 1988 by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC", said 'Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan in an interview with the Afghan TV reporter.

As mentioned in the statement, the reasonable policy of the national reconciliation announced by the state of Afghanistan has created an atmosphere of mutual understanding inside the country as well as in the region and the world.

It is praiseworthy and confirmable, Hatif added, that the statement points clearly to equal rights, mutual respect, common interest and non-interference in each others internal affairs.

The statements of Najibullah and M.S. Gorbachev published on February 8, 1988 have provided ground for the final decision in the Geneva talks and sincere efforts of the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cullar and his special envoy, Diego Cordovez are of high esteem, Hatif added.

Guaranteeing of the accord by the Soviet Union and the United States gives us confidence. As the Afghanistan problems depend on Afghans themselves and the territory of Afghanistan should not be used against any neighbouring country is a traditional wish of all Afghans.

Hatif went on to say: Multi-party system and a multi-sectoral basis in the economic sphere conform with the situation of the country.

We are grateful to the Soviet Union which promised its readiness to help us in creating satisfactory conditions for the return of the refugees and to restore the Afghanistan's economy and facilitate the economic and social development of the Republic of Afghanistan.

National Assembly Elections Voting Continues

LD090554 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 8, BAKHTAR—Our correspondent reports from the election polls and voted for their desired candidates to the House of Representatives and Senate today which coincides with the fourth day of elections to the National Assembly.

The active participation of people in the election process testifies to this fact that the people consider their participation in the elections as their active contribution in the realisation of the policy of natonal reconciliation.

The participation of more than five hundred persons from the opposition in the election process in Herat Province in the first two days of the elections, joining of an armed group in Qeysar District of Faryab Province, nomination of a candidate to the House of Representatives from the opposition in Balkh Province, nomination of candidates from the left-wing [word indistinct] parties to the National Assembly attest to this fact that the policy of national reconciliation and under it the elections to the National Assembly have paved the gound for the unity of the Afghan people.

1,950 persons in Konarha Province went to the election stations and voted for their desired candidates in the past three days in the conditions that extremists had fired around 2000 missiles to the residential areas.

About 466,839 persons throughout the country have casted their ballots in the election boxes during the first three days of elections started on April fifth. About 151,996 persons voted for their desired candidates only on Thursday.

This shows an unprecedented figure in the history of elections in Afghanistan.

More than one hundred thousand people in Kabul city, more than 50 thousand persons in Farah Province, more 25 thousand persons in Balkh Province, 30 thousand persons in Nangarhar Province have so far voted for their desired candidates.

BAKHTAR on Elections

LD100904 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 9, BAKHTAR—Elections into the National Assembly, parliament, have continued for the fifth day in Afghanistan where nearly 602,000 Afghans have cast their votes in the last four days. On Friday, April 8 alone, 135,000 persons have casted their ballots for their desired candidates.

Commenting on the election campaign, BAKHTAR political observer writes that the current campaign is marked by rallies addressed by candidates and meetings of working people in support of the polls made possible by the policy of national reconciliation announced by the Republic of Afghanistan. The people are hailing the recent Afghan-Soviet joint statement. They regard the statement as a message of peace and termination of war and bloodshed in the country.

All the people including the clergymen, militarymen, youth, intellectuals, nomads, Hindu minority, returnees, and others vote for the desired candidates. They actually vote for peace and for the success of Geneva talks.

BAKHTAR commentator adds that elections are being held in 229 polling stations for deputies to the House of Representatives and in 62 polling stations for senators. Law on elections has made provision for the opposition to participate in the elections. For example, 54 out of 229 polling stations to the House of Representatives have been set up in the areas controlled by the armed opposition.

Eighteen out of 62 polling stations for the election of senators have fallen in the same areas. The opposition is eligible to nominate its candidates to all election polls including the areas controlled by the government. Positions in the Senate 25 percent of which is to be assigned by the president will also be reserved for the opposition.

A few days before the election started, 4,000 members of the opposition stated their intention to take part in voting. Unfortunately, extremists do not law down arms. In the same few days, a number of villages were shelled

by rockets. The most recent example is the town of Asadabad and Kuhestan region in Kapisa Province where two children were seriously wounded during the shelling of polling stations.

The voters in their interviews with BAKHTAR reporters demonstrated their willingness and enthusiasm and described the elections process as a heralder of peace in the country.

Homa Nuro, a teacher, expressed her happiness for the consideration of equal rights given to the women in elections. Abdul Qayum, a retired official, described the election process as democratic and in full conformity with the principles of Islam. Another interview said that the voters should vote to a candidate possessing an example of devotion and service to the country.

The elections are continuing throughout the country.

Najibullah, Presidential Council Assess Election

LD102010 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, presided over a broad meeting of the Presidential Council in Delkosha Palace. The meeting assessed the first 5 days of the National Assembly Elections.

The BIA reports that 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, president of the National Front Central Council and president of the Central Election Commission; Mir Saheb Karwal, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Besmillah, president of the Election Commission of Constituency no. 22 of Kabul; Daud Razmyar, secretary of the Kabul city party committee; Major General Zabihullah Ziarmal, chief of Army main political directorate; and Kabir Ranjbar, presidential advisor on council affairs, offered reports on implementing the tasks in their assigned sections over the past 5 days of the National Assembly elections.

At the end of the meeting, Esteemed Najibullah made a guiding speech in which he assessed the tasks of the National Assembly elections over the first 5 days. He said the first days of the elections have shown the confidence of the people in the party and in state power. For instance, former famous and influential people attempted everywhere to obtain the backing of the state and the party organs as a guarantee of success in gaining election to the National Assembly. The dynamism shown by the people in districts during the nomination of candidates as senators and representatives is evidence of the credibility of the parliament which is taking shape in Afghan society.

The existence of many candidates in each constituency and the facilities available to the voters establish the regularity of the democratic nature of the new electoral system and show specific instances of ensuring the people's rights in political action as registered in the Afghan Constitution.

In general, the election continues regularly and successfully. Over the past 5 days, 759,000 of our compatriots have participated in the election and have voted for their candidates.

Esteemed Najibullah also explained his meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, and the Soviet-Afghan joint communique which was approved in Tashkent. He said: We are certain that through the approval of this communique the long-standing wish of our people is ensured. The Geneva talks ended successfully. Our people welcome this communique with jubilation.

At the end of the meeting he expressed his hope the the people will ever-increasingly participate in maintaining peace in the country, the peaceful life of our compatriots, and in developing the country. He said he also hopes to see increased participation in the elections.

Bangladesh

President Expresses 'Dismay' Over Hijacking

LD110937 Kuwait KUNA in English 0853 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 11 (KUNA)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad had expressed his shock and dismay at the hijacking of Kuwaiti plane and dastardly execution of one of the passengers.

The president, in a message yesterday to H.H. the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, said Bangladesh people and government are greatly anguished by the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane and killing of one passenger.

President Ershad condemned the cowardly act and extended Bangladesh's total support to Kuwait Government's efforts to end the tragic episode.

He invoked the blessings of Allah to crown the efforts of the Kuwaiti amir with success.

Newly Elected Parliament To Meet 25 April

BK100634 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The president has summoned the first session of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] to meet on Monday, the 25th of this month at 1000. This was announced officially in Dhaka last night.

India

Gandhi Holds Top-Level Meeting on Punjab

BK081248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister has had a top-level meeting in New Delhi to consider an action plan to curb terrorism in Punjab. Those who took part included the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram; the Punjab governor, Mr Sidharta Shankar Ray; and the state police chief, Mr Ribeiro. The meeting was a sequel of the three meetings of district level officials in Punjab.

An official spokesman said the thrust of the meeting was to intensify action against terrorism and mobilize people's participation in the struggle against the menace.

The spokesman said the action plan will be finalized after the prime minister holds more such meetings in the next few days.

Gandhi Sees Link Between Drug Smuggling, Sikhs

BK091644 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] Meanwhile, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had decided to set up a Cabinet sub-committee to step up anti-narcotics measures, especially to prevent the smuggling of drugs from Pakistan, PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] says.

Mr. Gandhi and his colleagues agreed at a meeting here Friday that there was a connection between the drug smuggling and the Sikh campaign, a government spokesman quoted by PTI said Saturday.

Drugs smuggled into India from Asia's "Golden Crescent" of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan on their way to the United States and West Europe are allegedly used by Sikh militants to fund their bloody campaign for a homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in Punjab.

The Indian authorities have said that 90 percent of the heroin and 60 percent of the hashish smuggled into India comes from Pakistan.

The authorities estimate that some 64 tonnes of drugs, including 2.7 tonnes of heroin and 14.3 tonnes of hashish, were seized across India last year.

Home Minister's Policy Statement on Punjab

BK081244 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 8 (AFP)—The Indian Government Friday told Parliament here of its three-pronged strategy to combat Sikh militants in Punjab State and repeated accusations that Pakistan was backing the Sikh separatist campaign.

Home Minister Buta Singh said a new security blueprint provided for effective policing of the India-Pakistan border in the three northern states of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan to close off the alleged arms supplies.

He said paramilitary forces would be armed with modern weapons to match the growing fire-power of Sikh militants and an all-party mass action programme initiated in Punjab to build up public resistance to violence.

The announcement in Parliament's Lower House followed four days of meetings between federal government ministers and Punjab civil and police officials.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi met Punjab Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Police Chief Julio Ribeiro here Thursday to finalise the security measures.

Violence linked to the Sikh separatist campaign this year has so far left more than 670 people dead in Punjab. Some 1,234 people died in 1987.

The Punjab state administration has already ordered security forces to replace obsolete rifles with automatic weapons, hired civilians and ex-soldiers as special police officers and activated a plan to string the frontier in Amritsar District with searchlights and barbed wire.

Some 4,000 Border Security Force (BSF) troopers have been pulled out from security duty in Punjab villages and deployed along the border.

New Delhi has deployed 1,000 Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) troops to guard banks and vital installations in the state against Sikh separatist raids and another 9,000 ITBP men are expected to be sent to Punjab soon.

Mr. Buta Singh, a Sikh, said Pakistan was backing Sikh separatists in a bid to "dismember and destabilise" India. He said New Delhi would take up the issue with Pakistan at the highest level, adding that India had in the past raised the matter through diplomatic channels.

Pakistan repeated Thursday its denials that it backed sikh extremists. A spokesman said in Islamabad that Pakistan believed in "the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, including India."

"Pakistan was opposed to terrorism in all forms," the spokesman said, adding, "externalisation of domestic problems was a temporary expedient which only complicated the issues."

Indian MP's Thursday demanded that India act to stop Pakistan from backing the separatists. One ruling party MP suggested that the Indian ambassador be recalled, at least temporarily.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

Mr. Buta Singh charged that Pakistan had a five-point strategy to fan Sikh separatism. He accused Islamabad of permitting the separatists to use Pakistani territory as a sanctuary, arming them, operating training camps and indoctrination centres, arranging safe passage to India for Sikh militants based overseas and of whipping up anti-Indian and secessionist sentiments. The minister said there were eight camps in Pakistan where Sikh militants were being trained.

Pakistani officials had at first denied the charges, he said. But when India produced documentary evidence to back them up the officials promised to initiate steps to cut off all clandestine help to the Sikh militants, he said.

More on Buta Singh Statement

BK081627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that there is evidence to show that Pakistan has been aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab. Replying to the special discussion held in the house yesterday on Punjab, he said the government would be taking up this matter with Pakistan at the highest level and saying that assistance and support to terrorists as well as anti-India propaganda should stop.

He said Pakistan's involvement broadly extended to permitting its territory as sanctuary for extremist elements and as a base for their training and indoctrination and supply of arms and ammunition to them. Pakistan has been facilitating visits of extremist leaders from abroad and indulging in hostile propaganda designed to inflame anti-Indian secessionist sentiments. Indian jathas [Sikh pilgrims] going to Pakistan were also being used for the same purpose.

Mr Buta Singh told the house that there are at least 8 or 9 centers in Pakistan where training is imparted to the terrorists. Besides Pakistan, these elements are also getting training in special schools being run in some developed countries. According to information received, the mastermind behind the terrorist violence operates from both within and outside the country. It showed that besides Pakistan some other countries are also supporting and assisting the terrorists. [passage omitted]

He declared that there can never be any talks with the terrorists who are indulging in the killing of the innocent people. There is also no question of the government budging from the secular path to accede to the Sikh priests' theocratic demands by way of any emotional gesture. He said government still hoped that it may not have to clamp emergency in Punjab. However, if things became worse, there is no alternative. Government will certainly consult the opposition before taking such a step.

Mr Buta Singh said all parties in Punjab extended their support to the political campaign against separatism. He regretted that the Unified Akali Dal is the only party which kept aloof from the campaign. This faction of the Akali Dal also never condemned killings of the innocent people in the state. He said the Unified Akali Dal, which controls the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee [the Sikh religious management committee] has been sending wrong signals to the people.

He said the Sikhs as a community are against separatism. But there is danger of some people getting swayed by the poison of separatism administered under the sugar-coated religious preachings.

The home minister expressed the government's determination to fight separatism resolutely and said the need of the hour is to instill courage among the people and the government is working in that direction. He emphatically denied the charge of fake encounters in Punjab and dismissed it as a favorite propaganda of the extremists.

About the Punjab Accord, he said most of its provisions require cooperation of two or three parties. Whatever was possible for the Center to do unilaterally has been done. The government has not given up the agreement and it would pick up the thread for its implementation as and when possible.

Sikh Militants Acquire U.S. Stinger Missiles

BK090853 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP)—Sikh militants fighting for a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab have smuggled in U.S.-made Stinger missiles from Pakistan, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Saturday citing intelligence reports.

The shoulder-fired missiles, which would add greatly to the militants' growing firepower, are mainly used in battle against helicopter gunships and low-flying aircraft.

Intelligence officials in the Punjab holy city of Amritsar have information the missiles were smuggled in during the past few days, PTI said.

Security forces have launched a search in Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts, known militant hotbeds, to unearth the weapons, the news agency added in a report from Amritsar.

Sikh militants have acquired a large number of Soviet-built, rocket-propelled, anti-tank grenades and launchers. Several grenades have been fired in three largely unsuccessful attacks and police uncovered an arms cache last month which included grenades.

Rockets fired at a leading Sikh politician's home missed their target. About 50 troops of the Central Reserve Police Force escaped unhurt from an attack on a makeshift paramilitary camp, while eight troopers were injured when rockets hit at a security convoy.

Observers have seen the attacks as an indication that Sikh militant tactics were moving closer to classic insurgency.

Violence linked to the Sikh separatist campaign has left more than 670 people dead this year.

'Terrorist' Attack in Haryana Kills 4

BK100614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] In Haryana, four persons including a terrorist were killed when three terrorists attacked a CPI legislator, Dr Harnam Singh, at his residence in Shahabad last night. The other persons killed were the legislator's son, daughter-in-law, and a relative. Five persons were injured in the incident. They include Dr Harnam Singh, his wife, her brother, and brother's wife.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the terrorists intruded into the MLA's [member of legislative assembly] house around 2015 yesterday and started firing. One of the terrorists was caught by the legislator. When Dr Harnam Singh overpowered one of the fleeing terrorist, his accomplice shot the terrorist dead. The two terrorists fired a few shots when people started chasing them. In this chase two persons were injured.

In Punjab, a police head constable was killed and a CRPF jawan [Central Reserve Police Force soldier] injured by terrorists in two separate incidents last evening. In Patiala District, a police head constable was shot dead by terrorists in village (Bhadson) yesterday. In Amritsar District, terrorists ambushed a CRPF patrolling party near a brick kiln outside Vadana late last night.

'Red Alert' Announced

BK100800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, six more persons were shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents last night. In Gurdaspur District, terrorists gunned two persons in village Shantgur, two in village Chaudhariwala and one in village Sangawaran. In Amritsar District, one person was shot dead by terrorists in village (Khaila).

The Haryana government has announced a red alert in the state following last night's shooting incident in Shahbad in which three persons of a MLA's [member of the legislative assembly] family were killed by terrorists. Five people, including the CPI MLA Dr Harnam Singh, were injured. Police have launched a massive hunt to nab the two terrorists involved in the incident. The director general of police, Mr H.R. Swan, and senior officials have rushed to Shahbad.

This is the second terrorist attack on a legislator in Haryana in recent days. An attempt was made on the life of a BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party] MLA in Ambala last January.

Sikh Factions in 'Shootout' in Golden Temple

BK101602 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 10 (AFP)—At least one Sikh pilgrim was wounded Sunday in a shootout between Sikh separatist factions in the Golden Temple complex in the holy city of Amritsar, police said.

Gunmen firing AK-47 assault rifles inside the holiest Sikh shrine triggered panic among hundreds of pilgrims visiting the inner sanctum known as the Harmandir Sahib, police said.

The gunmen, belonging to the ultra-militant Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), fired at an unidentified rival group, continuing an internecine war among Punjab State's militant groups, police sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone.

The sources said a hail of bullets came from the temple's room number 47, which is adjacent to a court run by the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF). The hardline AISSF runs the court to "enforce religious discipline" in the Sikh militant campaign for a homeland called the Khalistan (Land of the Pure).

More than 680 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the Sikh separatist campaign. Some 1,234 died last year.

Delhi Notes Firing in Temple

BK110340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons have been shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents since last evening. A farmer and his son were gunned down and his wife seriously injured by terrorists in Kandola village in Jullundur District last night. One doctor was killed in Langroha village.

Terrorists shot dead a shopkeeper and set fire to his shop at Mari Mustafa village in Faridkot District yesterday evening. The same group of terrorists later shot dead four other persons sitting in a three-wheeler in village Kotla Mehar Singh.

A PTI report from Amritsar says one Sikh devotee was injured in firing by some militants inside the Golden Temple complex yesterday.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Elections

LD082333 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1715 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic, at Tehran University on 8 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] May God's peace and benediction be upon you. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [chants] I ask our Mashhadi brothers to sit down so I can begin my sermon. [passage omitted on Koranic verses in Arabic] I advise and invite all dear sisters and brothers who are participating in the prayers to maintain holy piety, avoid sin, and encourage their conscience to avoid lustful desires and carry out the wishes of the Lord, in all aspects of life, particularly in important and decisive issues such as this issue of elections, the selection of responsible people for the Majlis. [passage omitted]

The elections in reality are not an internal issue for us, unlike elections in other countries. In our country, in addition to their internal dimension which deals with governing of the country and the revolution—which is indeed important—elections also have an international dimension because the Islamic revolution in our country has had and continues to have a special attribute, and that is the revolution rests on the shoulders of all the classes of society and the entire nation. We have seen nothing like this in the countries of the world today, not even in countries where their revolution has a popular aspect, at least not with such dimensions.

Do you know of any place where people—women, men, villagers, city dwellers, from the furthest part of the country, from every strata of the society—are so sensitive to the issues, political issues of the country, as in Iran? This is a very special attribute. It is possible that our own people are unable to understand clearly the dimensions and importance of this issue. However, the world counts on this. This is what makes the system of the Islamic Republic so strong and allows its roots to grow. It safeguards the revolution against the usual blights of revolutions. The world, large powers or nations, have their eyes on this unparalleled event. They can see how the people take part in this revolution and defend it.

One of the most important issues is that of the elections. Under political and propaganda pressure of the enemies, the expectation of the large powers has been and continues to be that the third Majlis elections not engender the excitement of previous ones. They are doing their utmost. When we declared the elections would be held at the appointed time, the imam declared we would vote under any condition. This was the general decision of our nation. The political circles in the world held their breath wondering whether the system of the Islamic Republic would dare hold elections while the city of Tehran was under the cowardly missile attacks of the enemy and while there was such a great deal of military activity on the battlefronts.

Cancelling elections is something natural around the world. It would have been reasonable for the authorities of the Islamic Republic to postpone the elections a couple of months if they felt any weakness. However, they said the elections would be held on time. This shows the daring of the leaders of the revolution and officials of the country in the face of events and their reliance on and faith in popular participation. They did everything within their power to stop it. As the imam said, maybe one of the reasons behind the Iraqi resumption of the war of cities was to have the people flee some of the cities, thus postponing elections. They used every resource to either postpone the elections or to weaken them. They even forced tiny groups at home and abroad, those who act as puppets of others, to boycott the elections so that if some people did not go to the polls for any reason, they could claim victory and maybe influence popular feelings. [passage omitted]

Thank God that the awareness of the masses of our people in this respect is very acute. They understand the issues, some in detail and others to a lesser degree. The popular support for this immense popular movement, as has been reported to me, is very good, thank God, and the numbers of those going to the polling stations have been high. People must participate up to the last moment in these elections. They are participating this time again. Despite all the actions of the superpowers and all anti-revolutionary policies across the world, our people will be victorious.

This is about the principle of elections. I have a number of brief points aimed at the brothers and sisters whose names will be on the ballots today, on this important day, a decisive day on the national political scene. According to our custom, we address the representatives during the Majlis opening ceremonies, offering them brotherly advice. However, I wish to offer some fundamental advice today in front of you and the rest of the country, who may listen to this now or later. The first point is that respect for the Majlis means respect for the

law, as the law is the most important function of Majlis. It is the law that shows the nature of the revolution. Unless it is reflected within the framework of laws and regulations, the revolution can be interpreted in any form and shape. Anyone could have their own interpretation. A revolution that is real can be felt and affects popular life; to make the government and the administrative organization responsible for certain work it passes laws. These laws are prepared in the Majlis on the basis of the Constitution, except in special circumstances when there are other conditions. The law belongs to the Majlis; and thus respect for the law is an important issue. [passage omitted]

In a society that was been put at the disposal of the people, one that the Islamic Republic inherited from its decadant predecessors, there were poverty, illiteracy, and unfair laws. In our society there are still classes who are living in the gravest of deprivation. There are still those who unjustly take more than their fair share from society. Such things must be eliminated.

Laws must exist in society within the system in such a way as to eliminate all these problems, uproot poverty. It must change the condition of farmers who were like parasites in the cities during the last regime. Great strides have been taken since the beginning of the revolution. The services of the revolution during the past 9 years or so were truly unequalled during the lengthy existence of former regimes. This is a fact, benefiting the oppressed, the deprived of society.

However, social conditions were so far wrong in our society that we still need laws that can benefit the oppressed and deprived classes, laws that can rid them of poverty and oppression. This is the meaning of an Islamic society. An Islamic society is one where ultimately there is no poverty, greed, or mismanagement. Therefore, laws should oversee the implementation of social goals. Poverty is only one of our social issues. Another important one is the illiteracy problem, the need to increase cultural awareness, to combat corruption. The enemy is injecting corruption into the society like a poison. The incoming Majlis should create laws in such a way that there will be no room for infiltration of corruption. [passage omitted]

I should also address the administrative and judicial organizations, as well as the people, at this point to say that if laws are so important and if the Majlis is so important, then the laws must not be broken. The responsible authorities must strictly avoid breaking any law, the sort of laws that are created with such difficulties. Look at the immense forces mobilized in the country today in order to create a Majlis. Look at all the work done so far and all the work that will be done before the Majlis is convened. If you and I simply violate the laws that are passed by the Majlis, if we have no qualm about violating the laws, then what is the point of all this effort?

The Majlis is not just a symbol; it embodies the law. This is what is important. Those who think that breaking laws or violating laws furthers the revolution and is part of the revolutionary nature should know that they are wrong. As I have said, the revolution exists in these laws. If you break the law, you have struck a blow against the revolution.

Another point for the representatives whose names will emerge from the ballot boxes today—and who, God willing, will be the best and most pure—is that they should honor the popular effort and note its importance. A representative of the people who has been voted in by a people under missile attacks, through much difficulty, should not consider this responsibility a second job, and should give it due importance. The respected representatives must respect the popular vote. I am a representative of the people in saying this. They should not say that because they have been elected, nobody should advise them. I am the president and a representative of these people. They must respect popular law. The elected representatives must put this job at the top and anything else is secondary, providing that it does not interfere with their representation. If they see that there are more important things, then they should vacate their seat and let someone else undertake the work of the Majlis. Being a representative is an important task.

My third piece of advice to the brothers and sisters who will become representatives is that from the start of the revolution to the present, everyone from the leader of the revolution, our dear imam, and below him all the officials, pure and sincere revolutionaries, and all people have said that the most dangerous thing for the revolution is disagreements. These words have repeatedly been said by the imam. In the early part of the revolution, there was an instance when two factions were in disagreement. One faction was definitely not concerned about the revolution. The imam knew that and yet said that even though the faction was not very sincere about the revolution, still the two factions should not disagree since disagreement was more harmful. [passage omitted]

Under such circumstances, the Majlis, with its open tribune that can be heard by everyone, must not become the main arena for disagreement. The deputies must pay attention to this. If the representatives who go to the Majlis have any disagreements, they should not bring them to the Majlis. They should go behind the scenes and do what they will with each other, air their disagreement. Do not raise disagreements in the Majlis, in that forum when millions of people are listening to the proceedings. Do not inject these into the society. Do not let the Majlis become a spring that bubbles with disagreements. This is my advice to those representatives who today are being selected by people under missile and bomb attacks. This is my request. It may be the case that some may not like this advice, some may attack precisely what I have said today from within the Majlis. I consider it my religious duty to say this in front of you people. Majlis representatives should realize that one of the greatest sins which,

God forbid, can be attributed to them is to drag their personal differences before the public and to permit them to descend like a a putrid and rotten stream among the population.

If two representatives have any disagreement between themselves, then they should discuss it. Discuss it like theological students, as the imam said during the first Majlis. They should discuss and debate rather than insult, accuse, and involve others outside the Majlis in the affairs of the assembly. Should such events occur, then it is unfortunate. I do not say that such events have taken place. However, we must be careful that such conditions not to occur. This is my last suggestion to the dear brothers. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on War, Iraq

LD082309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1715 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Second sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 8 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] Today coincides with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the great struggling learned martyr, Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Sadr, the esteemed Islamic thinker. It is also the anniversary of the martyrdom of his learned and chaste sister. Their murder is one of the unforgettable crimes of the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

The issue I intend to raise in this sermon today is to cast a glance at the situation of the 'Aflaqi regime as well as the mistake which the global arrogance and their satellites make with regard to the Iran-Iraq war.

They do not know what they are doing. They prove that the analyses made by the political establishments on this revolution continue to remain wrong and incomplete, as they have from the first. They failed on that day to recognize this revolution when it was in the form of a movement, and so they paid for it. And they failed to recognize it when it triumphed and again they paid for it. During these 9 years they have been constantly mistaken in their grasp of this revolution. They ignored their own experiences and have thus paid for it. As for the question of the war, they continue to make mistakes and undoubtedly they will pay for them, unless, of course, they change their thinking.

The war of the cities has been resumed, that is, the initiator was the 'Aflaqi regime while we were the one responding. Before God, the nations, and the people with conscience our word is clear and acceptable. We know that whenever an aggressor like Saddam and an aggressor and sinful regime like the Iraqi regime encounter no resistance, they become even more barbaric and wild. They started the war in the same way. At that time, if we had had our present level of readiness on the borders and if we had been able to display the present level of our military might, they would not have dared to start the war. They saw there was no obstacle, so they came in. If the road had been open, they would have come as far as Tehran too.

As far as the war of the cities is concerned, so long as they feel that their bullying language is winning, they will undoubtedly push forward. It is a duty to resist them. He who understands no logic except the language of might must be talked to in this language, to tell him to stop. It is necessary to do so, so that he may realize his situation. We meet him with this logic. [passage omitted]

All the world—those who have said something and expressed a view—have condemned the attacks on the cities, but owing to some considerations, did not say so. But our logic is clear. All the world knows that we respond. Failure to respond would make the enemy more audacious. However, the Iraqi regime did not move; it continued its attacks and doubled its war crimes.

Wars, like other things in the world, have rules. Of course, war is a violent affair. But this violence has its rules. The noble people of the world, those who want to fight in a manly manner, observe these rules. And more than anything else, Islam observes these rules. Attacks on civilians, blind attacks, criminal acts, and acts motivated by hatred and anger are contrary to the rules governing wars. The world tries to observe rules in war. Chemical attacks are against the rules of war. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime resorted to this crime despite the fact that it knew the world would react to it. And this in itself is important. Why did the Iraqi regime do so despite the fact that publicity is important in the war, and the regime in Iraq attaches more importance to publicity then others do? Why did it? The answer is this: because it could not do anything else. The Iraqi regime lacks power even to defend itself. For years it had lost the power to mount an offensive on the battlefield. Today it does not even command defensive forces, as is proved in Halabjah. You can see how a series of military actions leads to the capture of thousands of Iraqi military personnel at all levels, as well as the capture of tens of villages and several towns. That shows a lack of resistance on Iraq's side.

Therefore, what now stands before the world as a reality, is not solely what we say. Rather, it is what all the world says—the fact that Iraq lacks the power to resist the fighters of the Islamic Republic. And its chemically bombing of captured towns and villages or attacks on cities and residential areas with missiles stem from its failure. It cannot do anything else. If it does not resort to this deed, then it has in fact confessed to its decisive defeat in the war. This is what the world is now coming to understand. What we used to say in the Friday prayers sermons is now being said in world circles. It is being said as an expression of views and the news agencies report it. [passage omitted]

And yet global arrogance is making a mistake, that is, it continues to support Saddam and the 'Aflaqi regime. This is the focal point of my speech. I intend to ask global arrogance: For what reasonable benefit do you continue to support the dying, renegade, and ill-reputed regime?

One word is directed to the United States: We have no expectations of the United States. The U.S. regime has learned well that it was the principal adversary of our revolution because it had inflicted the most damage to our nation. It was that regime which for years supported the executioners who ruled this nation. It was the United States that after the victory of the revolution heavily engaged in hatching conspiracies against us. And it is the United States which is the full epitome of arrogance against which Islam has risen up. It knows that the Islamic Republic regime is against it; it knows that Islam negates it.

So, we expect nothing of the United States. Moreover, the behavior of the ringleaders of U.S. policy over the past few years has indicated that they usually make the worst choices. They always choose the most simple-minded and incorrect models and act upon them. The path to growth is closed to them. Now how can we analyze this phenomenon in human history? This is a different debate. Maybe this is the beginning of the downfall of a dictatorial government and a wrong dynasty of government in the world. [sentence as heard] That means that this civilization is finding principles [as heard] and downfall, because they make so many mistakes in different problems. Their mistakes are obvious, we can see them. Their support for the Iraqi regime is also one of their historical mistakes and nothing more is expected of them.

However, we have a word to say to two other addressees. One comprises the governments among the main shareholders of world politics, such as members of the Common Market, NATO, and the major European Governments which have a hand in world politics. The other category is the small, weak, and reactionary governments of the region. These reactionary brothers, of whom we always speak with this epithet, are the countries around ourselves. One of my addressees is this category. We ask them: Why are you making a mistake?

However, this question is directed more to them: Who do they go on supporting the Iraqi regime? We all know that they do so. France is supporting Iraq, as is Britain. Other countries on various occasions support it, by weapons, politically, and financially, and in other ways. Why do they support it? They will experience several big losses while they will by no means benefit. .First of all, the Iraqi regime is a notorious regime today in the world. It is a regime, as I said, which commits war crimes. [passage omitted]

When you support such a regime—and it has been proven that this regime is criminal—then how will you dare, in front of your own nation and in front of the peoples of the world, to say that you are against terrorism, kidnapping, violation of human rights? How dare you say you support the United Nations and civilization? The nations will assess you. [passage omitted]

That is the first issue which I raise and to which these are the answers. The second issue is this: By supporting the Iraqi regime, they add daily to the hatred, unhappiness, and even the anger and enmity between themselves and the Iranian nation and possibly the world progressive and revolutionary nations. Of course, our nation has enmity and animosity toward the U.S. regime. However, our nation did not have such enmity with many of these European regimes. You remember that on the day when our dear imam migrated to France in this very Tehran a large number of people took flowers to the French Embassy. In this very Tehran. What business does this nation have with them if the behavior of the European Governments is reasonable and in line with the status of our nation?

Of course, our revolutionary objectives are clear. We will by no means abandon our principle so. This is clear. But these principles do not tell us not to have friendly and sound relations with governments and nations. Today we have sound relations with many world countries, and some of these are European countries. They say that most members of NATO and the Common Market support Iraq and the separation will gradually increase and hatred and even anger and animosity will grow between themselves and our nation. [passage omitted]

Our nation is not a small nation cast away in a remote part of the world. We are situated in the middle of the world. The location of the Islamic Republic in the world is one of the most sensitive points of the world. No matter who controls the world, any civilization or government or power will know that this area in which you and I live is one of the most sensitive points. Major powers cannot remain indifferent to this spot in the world. Moreover, it is the center of wealth. There are so many natural resources. Less has been said about that than has not been said.

Moreover, this is a big nation, a daring nation, and a nation which determines its fate and has gone through many experiences. [passage omitted] Not only our nation but other nations will mobilize against these animosities which are thus created and they will cultivate hatred. Even now our pleas, our shouts, and our words that we are being victimized are reaching the ears of the world nations, and they will hear them even more loudly. These cries will influence them. [passage omitted]

The third point is that there is no reason for you to support this regime which is falling. You will harm yourselves. You cannot keep this Iraqi regime on its feet first, because our nation has grabbed the jugular of that

regime. We will not let Saddam and the 'Aflaqi regime go free. They must not be allowed to perpetuate crimes and dominate the region's political scene. They must not be allowed to continue aggression. [shouts of "God is great"] Moreover, he has no alternative but to commit suicide, that is, he is not able to administer his country. How can a man who treats his own nation like this govern his nation? His nation is a noble nation, it is a great nation. There is a limit to their patience and endurance. How can such a regime with so many crimes on its record govern that nation?

Some of the governments which in the last few years have come here to mediate tell us that if Iran ends the war then he would automatically be overthrown.

All right, if you know that without the war he will be overthrown, then why do you support him? What kind of wisdom and concern for the future is this? Why do we continue the war? We have our own initiative. We act with logic. But now that you believe that if there is no war he would fall, why do you support him? So the Saddam regime is not able to continue its rule. This is what we tell the European Governments. [passage omitted]

Now let me talk about the second-rate regimes. The Arab reactionary regimes also make mistakes They make two mistakes. Their first mistake is that they are afraid of the Islamic Republic regime, and their second is that even if they are afraid,they take refuge in safeguarding and supporting Saddam. On this wrong and impossible assumption, if they are afraid of the Islamic Republic regime, then the solution is not to pitch someone against the Islamic Republic regime who understands nothing. Even now when he receives your money and capabilities, your oil, your ports, your ships, your roads, your flags, your policy, and your radio, television, and newspapers, he is bullying you. [passage omitted]

The mischief of arrogance has even insinuated that once Iran finishes off the Iraqi war then it will move on them. We have said no, we will not move against the Islamic countries. We would not have moved against Iraq either, if it had not moved against us. This is our word. This is our declared policy. This is among our principles.

Exporting revolution does not mean this kind of thing. It means that we must live as Muslims and live well so that other Muslims will emulate us. The export of revolution means that we must express our Islamic and revolutionary thoughts so that all the world may hear them. The export of revolution which the Islamic regime espouses is different from the export of revolution which some other countries had, those which used to send agents inside other countries, inside their regimes to engage in sabotage. We do not need to resort to such things. [passage omitted] Exporting revolution does not mean that we must interfere in their domestic political issues. Moreover, our Constitution foresaw that we must not interfere in the affairs of any country, which is correct. We speak our own word, and when it shines everyone can benefit from its light. They are wrong to think that they cannot coexist with the Islamic Republic. The Islamic republic is a power. Iran has never enjoyed the power it enjoys now. [passage omitted]

The countries of the region must appreciate and welcome the existence of such a power in this region. If the regional countries look at it logically, they will realize that the Islamic Republic, a nation so powerful in the region, can be beneficial for their policy, reputation, and credibility. [passage omitted]

Our last word is this: We will not hesitate in front of such failure to understand. We will not waiver in front of these wrong analyses which arrogance offers against our revolution. We continue our revolutionary movement and go toward our revolutionary goals. Our first and most important goal is to bring the war to an end with Islam's victory and by severe punishment of the aggressor. [chants] [passage omitted]

Mo'ayeri on Allowing Hijackers To Leave

LD081720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the political deputy of the prime minister, who has gone to Mashhad to supervise efforts concerning the freeing of the passengers of the Kuwaiti 747 plane, explained the results of the efforts of the Prime Ministry's mission in an interview with the reporters.

Mr Mo'ayeri said: Following extensive surveys and continued talks with the Kuwaiti authorities as well as the hijackers, there remained no alternative for our country's authorities but to provide the plane with fuel.

He said: There were other alternatives. One was for us to act as intermediaries between the hijackers and the Government of Kuwait to pass on their requests. The Government of Kuwait did not give us any clear response with regard to this alternative.

Another alternative was to use the hostage rescue unit, which would have had undetermined results, possibly many casualties and much damage. That is because at one time, when the said unit was encircling the Kuwaiti plane, the hijackers seriously threatened to kill one of the passengers.

The deputy prime minister explained that the Islamic Republic opposes hijacking and terroristic activities, and it was solely due to humane considerations that it gave permission for this plane to land at Mashhad airport.

He said: The leaders of Pakistan and Turkey had direct contacts with the prime minister. They expressed their hope for positive results with the Government of Kuwait. That was at a time when the Kuwaiti authorities had no satisfactory response for the hijackers.

Mr Mo'ayeri added: Through the efforts of the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic, we succeeded in keeping the plane at Mashhad airport 10 hours past the latest deadline announced by the hijackers. He said: Efforts by the mission sent by the prime minister, resulted in freeing about half of the passengers. This is, within its limits, a great achievement for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Khamene'i Telephones Ziaul Haq on Hijacking

LD081800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Pakistani President Mr Ziaul Haq, in a telephone conversation with our president, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, discussed the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner. During the conversation, Mr Khamene'i reiterated the fundamental position of the Islamic Republic regarding such activities and recounted the efforts which led to the freeing of 57 citizens from various countries. He added: In order to safeguard the lives of the remaining hostages, despite our actual desire, the aircraft was allowed to take off.

The barbaric actions of the Iraqi regime in the war of cities, as well as extensive Iraqi use of chemical weapons, were other topics of this telephone conversation. Mr Ziaul Haq stating that he is aware that Iraq started the war of cities and has used chemical weapons, condemned such actions.

Kharrazi Denies Knowing Hijackers' Identity

LD091943 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kamal Kharrazi, spokesman for the Iranian Supreme Defense Council, president [as heard] of IRNA, and director of the WIH headquarters in Iran, has told Madrid Radio that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane is a strange occurrence with which Iran has nothing to do. In exclusive statements to our colleague (Elisa Loncan) in Madrid, where Mr Kharrazi is visiting, he added that his government has doubts about the origin of this hijacking, whose aim could well be to overshadow the Iraqi crime in Halabjah.

[Begin Kharrazi recording in Persian fading into Spanish translation] We all have doubts about the origin of this kidnapping, and believe that perhaps someone wanted to overshadow the Iraqi crime in Halabjah with it. [end recording]

Asked whether the Iranian Government could exert any pressure on the hijackers—who call themselves Islamic fundamentalists sharing similar ideas to those of the Tehran government and who say they are asking for the release of other fundamentalists imprisoned in Kuwait—Kamal Kharrazi, spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, replied that his government has not been able to do more than what it did in allowing the plane to leave Mashhad in Iran.

[Begin Kharrazi recording in Persian fading into Spanish translation] We do not even know who these people are, or where they come from. We tried to save the situation, to save the lives of the passengers, and to show our goodwill by making good decisions in this respect. [end recording]

Kharrazi expressed opposition to this kind of violent action because innocent people pay for such actions.

Other questions in the interview concerned the Iran-Iraq war. The spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council reaffirmed that the solution to this conflict would involve a denunciation by international bodies of Iraq as the aggressor nation which started the war, an end to Iraqi crimes, and its withdrawal from the Iranian territories it is occupying at present.

The president of IRNA and director of the WIH Headquarters in Iran is visiting Spain to give Spanish public opinion his country's view on the war and its peaceful solutions, and he denied that his visit was due to comments about Spain's selling chemical weapons to Iraq.

Kharrazi Scores Italian Policy, Alludes to Waite

LD090858 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Rome, April 9, IRNA—Head of War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi described Iraqi regime's crimes in Halabjah as an act amounting to the "killing of a generation." He said Saddam Husayn is a war criminal for having violated the 1948 Geneva Convention.

Kharrazi who is also managing dircetor of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) told reporters here Friday that it is necessary that the world countries endeavor to prevent selling of chemical weapons to Baghdad or else the mass killing of civilians in Halabjah would soon be repeated somewhere else. He also criticized international forums for having remained indifferent about the issue.

The WIH head said that the aggressor should be punished, adding that certain governments not only support the Iraqi Ba'thist regime but use their leverage in the UN Security Council against Iran.

In relation with a cease-fire Kharrazi said that if the Islamic Republic of Iran accepts a ceasefire in the present conditions while the aggressor is not punished what happened in the Middle East between Arabs and the Zionist regime would be repeated. If the Arabs had not agreed to a ceasefire, he hinted, they would not now be in their present shape.

Concerning the recent discovery in Rome airport of tons of Italian made bombs destined for Iraq, Kharrazi said that the discovery disproves Italian Government's claim

of impartiality in the Iraqi-imposed war. He said Italian factories have equipped Iraq with chemical weapons since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, and added that Monte Dison Industrial Group has reportedly exported 30 tons of chemical substances to Iraq which can be converted to lethal chemicals.

Kharrazi said the Italian Government one the one hand refuses to deliver helicopters to Iran and other hand it sends Italian-made warships for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. The WIH head described the imposition of arms embargo on Iran as a useless scheme and pointed out that such sanctions would only help Iran's military industries to improve. He reminded that already 70 percent of Iran's military hardware is produced locally.

On the war of cities Kharrazi stressed that the past experience has proved that Iraq will not attain its objectives by such devices but that conversely mass-terror schemes will make Iranians firmer in their resolve to battle more devotedly against the Iraqi regime.

In relation with Terry Waite's case in Lebanon and Iran's efforts for securing his release Kharrazi said once the British Government has exploited its leverage in Lebanon and secured the release of four Iranian hostages including a photo-journalist in that country then the Iranian Government would use its influence in Lebanon to secure Terry Waite's freedom.

Foreign Ministry's Communique on Afghanistan

LD110721 Tehran IRNA in English 0717 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry in a,communique here Monday condemned superpowers' formulas for Afghanistan and said that the only possible solution to the crisis in that country lies in the unconditional pull-out of Soviet troops from that country. It said any such solution should ensure the rights of the Afghans for self-determination.

The Foreign Ministry statment disapproved indirect talks between Pakistani officials and Kabul and branded the talks as a cover to safeguard the interests of the superpowers.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan, the statement stressed, have proved in the past several years that they are determined to exercise their own will in their homeland, and institute a statehood on their Islamic ideals. The statement deplored the indifference of the international organisations towards the issue.

The Foreign Ministry said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has refused to take part in the Geneva talks because Afghan mujahidin who are the main party are ignored. Secondly, the statement added, the other party in the talks is a regime which came to power while Afghanistan was occupied, and noted that therefore it is not a legitimate government.

The Foreign Ministry statement warned that the signing of an accord with a regime which is not supported by Afghan people and which is backed by foreign forces holds no value and is unlawful.

It said any agreement which ignores the rights of Afghans for self-determination will fall short of solving the problems in that country.

Navy's Malekzadegan on 'USS Stark' Incident

LD101515 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—The first tugboat ever manufactured by Iran's Navy will soon be launched, disclosed Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan here Sunday.

The Navy Commander also said that Iranian Naval forces are fully prepared to confront any possible threat in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, saying that attacks on ships sailing in the Persian Gulf increased by 70 percent following U.S. military presence in the region, noted that the U.S. by losing eight ships and several helicopters has sustained heavy casualties and damages.

The commander said the American warship, "USS Stark" struck by air-to-surface missiles fired by Iraqi warplanes on May 17, 1987 was at the time monitoring movement of Iranian marine convoys.

Malekzadegan disclosed that the Iraqi missiles, which hit the "USS Stark" were in fact aimed at Iranian ships, but the Navy's timely countermeasures diverted them towards the U.S. warship. He said that details of the Navy's operations will be disclosed in the future.

Further on Elections to Consultative Assembly

Prime Minister's Message

NC080929 Tehran Television Service in Persian 0455 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Message to the people by Prime Minister Mr Hoseyn Musavi on 8 April—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. Today is a historic one for our nation. Since the revolution we have had many historic days. Today is the day on which you the people will elect your representatives. If we look at the strength of the system of the Islamic Republic in the world today, we will see that the main reason for this strength is the presence of you the people on the scene, a presence which the imam of the ummah has described as epic. This is the truth. We find this kind of presence unprecedented in the world. Of course, we have seen marches and movements in the world that have led to fundamental changes in various countries and nations. However, none of these have been

ongoing. It is this very continuation that grants an epic aspect to the issue. Glancing back at the year 1357 [year ending 20 March 1979] and again at the situation almost 10 years after the revolution, we see that the destiny-making element and what gave strength to our system has been this very presence of the people.

The presence of the people takes various forms. Sometimes it is in the form of clenched fists which render world arrogance helpless. Sometimes the vast presence of the people on maneuvers and on the fronts inflicts crushing blows to arrogance. Sometimes the movement of people to elect representatives who will oversee on their behalf our sacred system—especially the executive system—is an example of the epic presence of the people and makes our system stronger each day. In a country where there is only one voice and where the people have no say, where the people are not present and do not act for themselves, where the people lack creativity, any kind of growth, and independence, freedom dies and such a country has no future. Amidst difficulties, under the pressure of plots and under pressure by world arrogance and regional reaction, we have hopes that our nation will have a strong future in which its children can live freely, arising from the people's supervision and presence.

Take a look at the executive system. I have always said that if there is no supervision and if worrying eyes do not watch over the activities of the executive, each official in the executive system will be led into arbitrariness and corruption. They will be made to feel they are better than others and that their methods are best. Developments in a system come when everyone is attentive to and watchful over their serious duties toward the nation.

Our executive system has been able to stand up before the world. The entire world has seen this. We are enduring and continuing a difficult war. Our enemies are all united. All the world, the world of arrogance, is standing behind Saddam. Everyone is helping him. No one is helping us. What makes the wheels of this country move is a strong executive system. The strength of this system is not intrinsic. It stems from the people, from your presence, the people, from a strong Majlis, from supervision, from vigilance and watchfulness, and from the fact that each and every director in the executive system knows that each moment their activities are being judged, either directly by the people or by the representatives.

As far as the executive system is concerned, I concentrate particularly on the issue of the Majlis, a Majlis consisting of representatives of the people themselves, representatives who are not bullies but who have emerged from among the people, representatives of the barefoot and oppressed of the world, representatives who support the people's wants. Each step taken by the government within this system receives the attention of these representatives. Some activities are supported; weak activities are rejected or redirected.

All these have made us feel so strong. And to think that even if the entire world of arrogance rises up against us today, we will be able to make the wheels of the executive system turn and make the country progress. This is because the executive system is an extension of the people. It is the children of the people who are controlled by the people themselves and by the Majlis. This is why the Majlis is of great importance to us.

Today even our enemies confess that these elections are epic, particularly as they are being held under difficult war situations and during dastardly attacks by Saddam's regime. The imam has stated that one of the objectives behind the intensification of these attacks may have been to disrupt the elections. On the basis of criteria prevailing in the world, such bombings and pressure can postpone elections in places where there is no spirituality or light, where people are not interested in their system. However, for us, legal frameworks, the people's supervision, and our Majlis attach such great significance to this political activity that the imam of the ummah has stated: I will vote under any conditions.

The nation shares these feelings. This is why these elections will always be remembered and be a determining factor for our nation's future. In the future, when we have overcome these plots, when our fighters have attained their final victory, when we have emerged in the world—not as a second-class country but as a strong country that cannot be pressured by anyone—when we have overcome all this, one of the reasons for our immense victory, for the fact that our nation will be an example in the world, and for the impact that our nation will have on world policy will stem from the fact that there were people at the beginning of the revolution who shed blood, who gave their lives, who did not fear plots, who rushed to Friday prayers through bombs and missiles, and who even carried out their elections under these bombs and missiles.

This is no minor thing. This is something that has surprised the world's mass media. This is why—thanks to the logic we have acquired after the revolution, from the revolution's spirituality and luminosity—God will not let such a nation stand alone. He will grant it His assistance and make it stronger, because this strength is not a physical or material strength. It rises from the spiritual strength of a nation that supports justice, the oppressed, beautiful human values, freedom, and independence. It is the strength of a nation that has risen to cry to the world that a nation should not be the servant of another country or other powers.

This is the vast meaning of these elections, and, God willing, all of you people will be successful in this. It is your belief in principles that will be manifest in the Majlis. And we think that whatever your belief, it should form the basis of the policies of the system—economic, foreign, interior, and cultural policies—as this belief

belongs to you, the people. We hope that these elections will end successfully, like previous elections that are among the glories of the history of our revolution, God willing.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Prime Minister Casts Vote

LD080959 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi cast vote for the third Majlis (parliamentary) elections at a polling booth in Tehran at 09:15 hours local time (05:45 GMT) after inspecting several stations in various parts of the capital.

While casting his vote, the prime minister was encircled by other voters who by chanting slogans such as "War, war till victory" and "We are not tired of the war," displayed their firm resolve to confront global arrogance and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

In a brief interview with reporters, Premier Musavi described the massive participation of Iranian people in the third parliamentary polls under savage Iraq missile and air attacks as "wonderful" and as a "sign of people's firm resistance."

Khamene'i Interviewed on Polls

NC081951 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Telephone interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 8 April—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Greetings, Mr Khamene'i. I hope you are well.

[Khamene'i] Greetings. Praise be to God, thank you very much.

[Correspondent] With congratulations on the people's response to the invitation of his eminence the imam, could you give us your viewpoint on the extensive participation of the people of our Islamic nation in the elections?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In my opinion, today is one of the unique and rare days that we have seen since the revolution. It is undoubtedly one of those days that will go down in the history of our revolution as unforgettable and memorable. People have participated extensively in these elections, under circumstances in which the eyes of the whole world are watching to see what decisions they would take and what they would do. Tehran and other large and small cities are under the threat of missile and bomb attacks by the enemy, and the enemies of the nation were awaiting a very scanty and lukewarm response by the people. However, the turnout was extensive and epicmaking, and the people participated in a manner which was, as a matter of fact, proof of great strength.

Such a massive turnout, such acumen, such resistance is amazing. I wish to congratulate the people and the dear imam on this enlightenment and awareness of the people and their resolve, solidarity, and determination. I think the very fact that they responded in this way will exert a decisive political effect on the international climate. I believe that those who still make wrong assessments of our revolution will be motivated to change their views. They will comprehend that this nation has deep and intensive perception and awareness, determination, and valor. It was in fact a great day and it is appropriate to name it Day of God [Yawm Allah]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, and once again I congratulate you and all officials of the government.

[Khamene'i] Thank you as well.

[Correspondent] God bless you.

Mohtashami on Participation

NC082102 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Telephone interview with Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami by correspondent Ahmadzadeh in Tehran—live]

[Text] [Ahmadzadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As my colleagues informed you earlier, Mr Mohtashami, the esteemed interior minister, is going to speak to us directly, and I will now cut short my remarks and ask him to tell us about the latest reports received from headquarters and about the election situation in view of the Zionist Iraqi regime's threats.

[Mohtashami] Thank you. I must congratulate the martyr-nurturing nation and the great imam. The unified participation of the people in the elections is an indication of their combative spirit and their struggle against the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our dear imam said: I will vote under any conditions, and the nation has proved its obedience to the great leader of the revolution. Despite stringent and difficult conditions in which our cities were under missile attacks, they went to the ballot boxes and cast their votes, thus shooting at the hearts of the enemies of the revolution.

Generally speaking, the elections were remarkable. The people's participation was extensive and in most provinces, outstanding. In Baluchestan va Sistan Province, 50 percent more votes were cast than in the previous elections and, similarly, in other provinces, more people voted than before. The response by the people of Tehran was dazzling; even now a stream of cars is moving toward Tehran. Traffic is heavy on the approach roads to

the city, and we are being continually requested to extend the voting deadline. We have done so and people may vote until 1000 [1900 GMT] tonight. We are hopeful that our dear residents will be able to avail themselves of this extension and cast their votes.

I now announce that the dear governors who believe voting has ended in their constituency should announce the end of the voting period and begin counting the votes, so that we can immediately announce the results to our dear nation. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all those who are involved in the organization of the elections, all the executive teams, officials of the constituencies who number more than 30,000 throughout the country, the supervisors, the returning officers, and the observers in the Council of Guardians who are actively participating in the elections along with the organizers. We hope that what has taken place today will be a firm blow in the faces of the superpowers and the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In my later reports, I expect to be able to inform the martyr-nurturing nation of the results of the elections.

I must thank our esteemed prime minister, cabinet members, and ministers who placed all the resources of the administrative machinery at the disposal of the elections on Engineer Musavi's instructions. I thank him for his efforts in this regard. Engineer Musavi also came and saw for himself the work of the brothers who were engaged in the election headquarters activities. I thank all the officials.

[Ahmadzadeh] Thank you, Mr Mohtashami.

Results of 160 Constituencies

LD101531 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Results of 160 constituencies in the third Majlis elections have so far been declared, with 40 percent of the winners retaining their seats, according to the latest announcement of the elections headquarters.

Head of the elections headquarters Baqer Karimian [name as received] said that, despite Iraqi air and missile attacks the number of voters increased by 44 percent compared to the last one.

In Gilan and Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces which are far from the war theatre, the voting was up by 58 percent, he added.

Results From Khorasan, Ilam

LD102011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent in the central election headquarters, the latest results of mid-term elections for the Council of Experts for the provinces of Khorasan and Ilam are as follows: Khorasan: total votes cast 1,632,997 with Mohammad Va'ez 'Abai'e-Khorasani receiving 876,312 votes. Ilam: Total votes cast 153,284 with Mohammad Taqi Morvarid obtaining 94,814 votes.

New Consultative Assembly To Convene 12 Apr

LD092203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The Majlis Public Relations Office has issued a statement announcing that the Majlis will have an open session at 0800 on Tuesday 12 April and asking all the deputies to attend the session at the appointed time.

Montazeri, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meet 7 Apr

LD082106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom last night and discussed various issues.

In addition, Health Minister Dr Marandi, Red Crescent Society Supervisor Dr Vahid Dastgerdi, and Dr Manafi, head of the environmental protection agency, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri this morning. During the meeting assistance given by the Red Crescent Society to Kurdish refugees from the liberated Iraqi cities were discussed. The deputy leader noted the society's attention to alleviate the various needs of the refugee Kurdish brothers and sisters from the liberated areas.

Foreign Minister Velayati Leaves for Muscat

LD100429 Tehran IRNA in English 0424 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a political delegation left Tehran for Muscat Sunday morning.

Velayati is to discuss Iran-Oman relations, international and regional issues with Omani officials.

WIH Spokesman on Resumption of Cities' War

LD110827 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Monday that the Iraqi Government has resumed the war of cities, and threatened that Iran will pay Saddam Husayn in his own coin.

The spokesman said Iran had halted her attacks on Iraqi cities since Friday afternoon in response to Iraq's reservations, but noted that Iraq's attacks on a village near the Iranian city of Marivan Sunday and its firing of a missile into Tehran Monday morning is good proof that it needs "a serious punishment."

The official of the War Information Headquarters threatened that in response to Iraq's renewed attacks Iran's Muslim combatants will "raze to ground the dens of mischief in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq."

The WIH spokesman also Iran's shelling the Iraqi towns Khanaqin, 'Ali al-Gharbi, and Darbandi Khan as claimed in Iraq's military communique number 3127. He said the allegations by Baghdad were levelled simply to offer an excuse for its uprovoked attacks Monday on residential areas in Tehran and Esfahan.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Iraqi Town Bombed

LD081206 Tehran IRNA in English 1154 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed economic and military centers of the northern Iraqi town of 'Surijah' in Dahuk Province at 08:55 hours local time (05:25 GMT) Friday, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy.

All fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing mission carried out in reprisal for last night's enemy air attacks on the Iranian cities of Hamadan and Bakhtaran.

50 Iraqis in Surijah Killed

LD101747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff has announced that the commandos of the 65th Brigade of Hijrat of the IRGC Ground Forces, under the command of Ramadan Headquarters, carried out a courageous infiltration operation deep inside Iraq the past few days. They succeeded in taking over the Iraqi military town of Surijah in Dahuk Province for 18 hours. In this operation several bases, posts, and a high voltage power installation belonging to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in this town were destroyed and 50 Saddamist mercenaries were killed by the victorious forces of Islam.

Missiles Fired at 2 Military Sites

LD081216 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—A long-range surface-to-surface missile was fired at an important military center in Al-'Amarah at 07:45 hours (04:15 GMT) today causing heavy casualties and losses.

Two more surface-to-surface missiles were unleashed against military-industrial centers in the city of Al-Mawsil at 14:14 and 14:16 hours (1044: and 10:46 GMT).

The attacks were in retaliation for enemy air and missile attacks on civilians in Iran.

Communique No 3,166

LD081721 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded economic and military installations of the northern Iraqi town of Suriyjah in Dahuk Province at 08:55 hours local time (05:25 GMT) Friday dealing effective blows on the enemy, said a military communique here today.

The 3166th communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said the fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their mission.

At 07:45 hours local time (04:15 GMT) Friday, the missile unit of the Islamic Republic Air Force fired a surface-to-surface missile at an Iraqi military center in Al-'Amarah.

Iranian long range artillery fire continued to pound eco-military centers of the Iraqi cities and towns of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Qal'at Dizah, Khanaqin, Naft Khaneh, Banmil, Basra and 'Ali al-Gharbi until 06:00 hours local time (02:30 GMT) today.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and inspected 18 cargo ships and oil tankers Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for the Iraqi regime.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out its routine patrol mission over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, providing air cover for the Navy and reconnoitering 48 vessels in the waterway.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields especially in Khushk and Zayd, southern sector, yesterday during which Iraqi troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western sectors Thursday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze five bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate positions of Iran's Muslim forces in Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, yesterday was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and some vehicles destroyed when Iranian forces shelled an enemy vehicle column in the western theater of Nahr 'Anbar Thursday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,167

LD091626 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Iranian naval units, supported by Air Force jets monitored shipping traffic in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Friday, searching 11 cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, reported the 3167th Joint Staff communique here today.

On the war fronts, it said Iranian combatants consolidated their positions and brought Iraqi strongholds, motorized columns and supply routes under fire in all sectors, inflicting heavy casualties on enemy troops.

Iranian artillery also shelled Iraqi motorized movements in Kani-Sheykh and enemy engineering equipment in Chazabeh.

Several group bunkers of the Iraqi tropos were destroyed and a group of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded when Iranian Gendarmerie forces barraged their perimeters in parts of the western and southern fronts Friday, the communique concluded.

Marivan Hit by 'Chemical Shell'

LD101337 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically refuted Iranian artillery shelling on Basra, Al-Qurnah, Darbandi Khan, Khanaqin and Raniyah, claimed in the Iraqi military communique 3126. He said Iranian combatants ceased their deterrent operations as of Friday when the Iraqi regime stopped its attacks on Iranian residential areas.

Such allegations reveals that Baghdad rulers intend to resume their atrocities. He added that Iraq also fired a chemical shell at the Iranian city of Marivan, Kurdistan Province, today.

Iranian combatants will strongly resume their reprisal attacks if the Iraqi regime resorts to its mischievous acts again, he warned.

Iraqi Warplanes Repelled

LD100826 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Esfahan, April 10, IRNA—A number of Iraqi warplanes were observed on the airspace of Iran's city of Esfahan at 19:50 and 22:15 hours local time (16:20 and 18:45 GMT) Saturday, but were repelled by the surface-to-air fire of the Iranian forces. They fled without dropping any bombs.

The sound of the red alert was heard on the local radio here for five minutes.

Communique No 3,168

LD101655 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions throughout the battlefields Saturday, killing or wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers and destroying parts of their fortifications including several munitions depots, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3168th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force, on its routine mission of safeguarding the country's airspace from enemy missile and air attacks, reconnoitered 40 warships, cargo ships, oil tankers, tugboats and launches in the southern waters, Saturday, ignoring warning from a foreign warship.

Iran's naval missile boats on their daily patrols in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, reconnoitered 10 vessels and monitored movement of five warships escorting certain cargo vessels.

The anti-aircraft fire of Iranian naval forces repelled enemy helicopters violating the airspace of Lavan Island and the Salman oil platform in the Persian Gulf yesterday.

On Saturday, Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces, concluded the communique.

Missiles Hit Tehran, Esfahan

LD110656 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Iraq unleashed more missiles against Tehran and Esfahan this morning inflicting yet undetermined number of casualties. Material damage was also inflicted. Esfahan was hit at 09:28 hours (05:58 GMT). Eight minutes later the capital was missile-attacked.

The enemy had stopped its missile and air attacks on Iranian cities since Friday. Hours before Iranian people went to the polls for the third term of Majlis (parliamentary) elections the enemy missile-attacked Tehran and a number of other Iranian cities in a desperate attempt to discourage the people from participating in the elections. However the massive turn-out in the third Majlis elections was another bitter defeat for the tottering regime in Baghdad.

On Sunday the Iraqi regime levelled baseless charges against Iran saying Iranian forces had shelled Basra and a number of other Iraqi cities. The claim, however, was denied by the WIH Headquarters which said in a statement that any renewed enemy attacks against Iranian cities will be severely retaliated.

A number of Iraqi planes violated the airspace of Esfahan Saturday but were repelled by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. They were forced to flee without carrying out any operations.

On Sunday afternoon also, enemy troops dropped a chemical bomb on the Kurdish city of Marivan in Kurdistan Province of Iran. The timely efforts of anti-chemical units neutralised the effects of the chemical bombing. A village in Marivan was also bombed by enemy planes Sunday morning. Immediate casualty figures were not available.

16 Killed in Missile Attacks

LD110809 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11 IRNA—At least 16 civilians including women and children were martyred and several others wounded when iraq fired missiles at residential areas of Tehran and Esfahan Monday morning. A mosque, a hospital and several housing units and 15 cars suffered heavy damage.

Pakistan

Rawalpindi Military Ammunition Depot on Fire

First Report on Depot Fire

BK100610 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] An accidental fire in the ammunition depot of a military unit near Faizabad in Rawalpindi about an hour ago caused a series of explosions. Loss of life and property is being assessed.

Defense Ministry Statement

BK100823 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has expressed deep shock and sorrow on the loss of life and property as a result of fire in an army ammunition depot near Faizabad crossing in Rawalpindi this morning. The prime minister has condoled with the bereaved families and assured all possible help to the affected persons. He has also directed the authorities to take immediate measures to look after the affected people. The prime minister was shocked to learn of the sad demise of Mr Mohammad Khaqan Khan Abassi, MNA [member of National Assembly] and former federal minister of production who died in Rawalpindi as a result of the explosions. He offered heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that the departed soul may rest in eternal peace.

A Defense Ministry spokesman in Rawalpindi has stated that an Army ammunition dump located near Faizabad crossing caught fire this morning and resulted in the burning and explosion of ammunition. Some of the projectiles strayed into Islamabad and Rawalpindi areas. Fire fighting is now under progress and troops have been rushed to the location to carry out evacuation and for necessary rescue operation. The spokesman requested the public that if they find any unexploded bomb they should contact telephone numbers 6134175, 6134170, 6131886, and 6131887 so that Army authorities could reach the spot and defuse and collect the bomb.

President Expresses Grief

BK101130 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo had expressed their profound sense of shock and grief over the tragic incident of fire in an Army ammunition depot near Faizabad crossing in Rawalpindi this morning.

In a message to the nation, the president expressed his deep sorrow at the loss of life and property in the incident. He prayed for those who lost their lives and expressed sympathies for the bereaved families as well as the injured.

The president had advised the services chiefs to cooperate with the civil administration, especially in looking after the injured. He said emergency should be declared in the military hospitals besides the civil hospitals of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. He assured of all possible help for the rehabilitation of the affected families. [passage omitted]

President's News Conference

BK111627 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq praised the people's patriotic spirit and courage and said they have shown unlimited courage in dealing with the situation caused by the explosions in an ammunition dump in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said he is inspired by the courage shown by the injured and added that the dedication and spirit with which the doctors, social workers, and common men assisted the victims are worth commending. The president said this tragic incident has proved that the nation, which has displayed exemplary solidarity and unity in this hour of crisis, is a great nation and full of qualities. He expressed deep regret at the loss of valuable lives and damage to property and said that this is all the more regrettable in view of the extreme measures taken when storing arms and ammunition in all military units. In this context he mentioned the incidents that took place in Bombay in 1984 and in Lahore in 1969. In addition, despite all precautionary measures, a gas leak at the chemical plant in Bhopal in India and the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union took place.

The president gave assurances that the inquiry, which had already been ordered by the prime minister, will pinpoint the reasons for the mishap and the people will be apprised of the facts that come to light during the inquiry. He gave assurances that strict action will be taken if the slightest laxity is detected as to the cause of this tragic incident.

He said that from the data available so far, 93 people were killed and nearly 1,100 people injured in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. More than 60 percent of the injured have been discharged after being given medical treatment. In the accident, 7 soldiers were killed and 32 others injured.

The president announced an amount of 50 million rupees from his special grant would be used to supplement compensation. This, he said, cannot be a substitute for the precious lives lost or injuries suffered. It is a gesture of sympathy for the affected families on the part of the government. This is in addition to the prime minister's announcement of a compensation of 50,000 rupees for every dead income-earner and 10,00 rupees for those who lost limbs. Loss of property will be suitably compensated.

The president said many friendly nations including the FRG, the United Kingdom, and France have proposed assisting the injured.

Pakistan has asked the Federal Republic of Germany to help in providing artificial limbs to the needy. These artificial limbs are also being produced by the military foundation in the country.

In reply to a question, he said 100 bomb disposal squads are working day and night, and they have defused more than 5,900 bombs so far in various areas. The president gave assurances that Rawalpindi and Islamabad will be cleared of bombs and projectiles by this evening or tomorrow morning.

The president particularly mentioned this evening's telephone message from the Jordan's King Husayn expressing sympathy, and saying that he shares the Pakistani people's grief. He said prayers were offered for the [salvation] of those killed in the incident as proposed by the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] mini summit in Kuwait yesterday.

The president lauded the civil administration, members of the Armed Forces, and doctors and social workers for providing immediate assistance to the victims without wasting time, and for exhibiting an exemplary (?spirit of coordination). He appreciated the fact that Radio Pakistan broadcast this incident in the 1100 [0600 GMT] news bulletin, apprising people of the accidental fire in the ammunition dump and thus ending baseless rumors.

The president returned home this morning after cutting short his visit to Kuwait. He also referred to the ICO mini summit in Kuwait, in which he threw light on the problems facing the Islamic community. He said: I told the members of the conference that an agreement has been reached in connection with a comprehensive solution to the Afghan issue and it will be signed in Geneva soon. Referring to Afghanistan, the president expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will fulfill its pledge by cooperating in the organization of an interim government acceptable to all parties in the Afghan dispute.

In reply to a question, the president said that under the Geneva agreement the Soviet Union will have to totally withdraw not only its troops but also its advisers from all Afghanistan, including Vakhan.

Number of Casualties Reported

BK101614 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The prime minister has ordered an immediate high-level inquiry into the mishap which resulted in heavy loss of life. The inquiry team will be headed by the corps commander of the Tenth Corps. In the mishap 58 people have been killed and more than 800 injured. The prime minister has also issued instructions to immediately pay compensation to the bereaved families of the killed and injured persons. He has also instructed immediate action to assess the loss of property. Three-day state mourning will be observed. The national flag will fly half mast and all state functions have been cancelled.

The prime minister, who returned to Islamabad from Karachi this evening, presided over a high-level meeting at the airport. Federal Ministers Qazi Abdul Majid Abid, Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyeb, and Mr Nasim Ahmad Ahir; Ministers of State Raja Nadir Parvez and Rana Naim Mahmud; Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Akhtar Abdur Rahman; many federal secretaries; and high civil and military officials attended the meeting.

Punjab Governor Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi welcomed the prime minister at the airport and attended the meeting. The Punjab chief secretary was also present on the occasion. The governor offered condolences to the bereaved families and expressed sympathy with the injured. He assured the prime minister of his government's full cooperation.

The National Assembly was told this evening that a fire broke out accidentally in the army ammunition dump near Faizabad in Rawalpindi while ammunition was being loaded in a truck. The fire later engulfed the entire dump. Soldiers tried to control the fire but could not succeed. A series of explosions followed and some of the projectiles, shrapnel, and rockets strayed into the Islamabad and Rawalpindi areas causing loss of life and property. Fire brigades and ambulances immediately reached the site of accident and troops rushed to assist

the civil admipistration. The whole area was cordoned off. Evacuation and relief work was launched. Bomb disposal squads were immediately dispatched to collect and defuse unexploded bombs in various Rawalpindi and Islamabad areas.

Among those killed in the tragic incident is the member of the National Assembly and former federal minister for production, Mr Mohammad Khaqan Abassi. [passage omitted]

Delhi: Sabotage Not Ruled Out

BK110329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Pakistan Government says that the disaster started accidentally as the ammunition was being loaded on a lorry. Sabotage has not been ruled out. Some reports indicate that the ammunition was destined for Afghan rebels.

Doctors Assist in Relief Work

BK110820 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo today visited the combined military hospital and Rawalpindi General Hospital to enquire about the injured persons of yesterday's incident. They went to every injured person and inquired about their welfare.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Rawalpindi General Hospital told Radio Pakistan's representative that four teams of doctors and paramedical staff reached Rawalpindi from Lahore with medicines and ambulances to help the doctors in the hospitals of Rawalpindi.

The mayor of Rawalpindi has appealed to the people of the affected areas to return to their homes, as there exists no danger now. He told Radio Pakistan's representative that eight relief centers have been established in the affected areas.

People Cautioned About Bombs

BK111015 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Rawalpindi says the fire and explosions in Ojri Camp in Faizabad have been brought completely under control. Citizens have been asked not to heed any rumors, and not to touch the unexploded bombs in various parts of the city. Fifty teams are working to collect these bombs. People should immediately notify the district administration at the following numbers or the nearest police station if they come across a bomb. The telephone numbers are: 842052, 840671, 844816, 840567. A relief camp has been set up at the Population Department building on Murree road for supervision of relief work.

U.S. Bomb Squad Arrives

BK110906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Latest reports from Islamabad put the death toll in yesterday's series of explosion at an Army ammunition dump in the city at over 300. More than 1,000 sustained injuries. An American bomb disposal squad has arrived in Islamabad to assist the authorities. The Pakistan Government has ordered a high-level enquiry into the incident. Press reports from Islamabad speak of sabotage as the reason for the disaster. According to a daily, the ammunition dump was being used to supply arms to the Afghan rebels. It said that at the time of the mishap many trucks belonging to the mujahidin were seen parked there.

Depot Near Nuclear Site

BK111558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The Pakistan Government says sabotage cannot be ruled out as the possible cause of yesterday's Faizabad ammunition depot blast. Panic still prevails in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Though the authorities put the death toll at 80, hospital sources in Islamabad now say that nearly 400 people were killed in the incident. A newspaper, THE MUSLIM, quoted Red Cross officials in Islamabad as saying that the toll could be as high as 1,000 dead and over 5,000 injured.

President Zia who cut short his visit to Kuwait, and the prime minister, Mr Junejo, visited the worst hit areas around the ammunition depot. Radio Pakistan is broadcasting appeals to the people to donate blood and not to touch any bomb-like objects. Shells and rockets, many of them live, were seen littered on the streets of Islamabad and Rawalpindi even today. Troops are still digging out the dead and the wounded from the debris. Witnesses say the explosion in the depot which is near the country's major nuclear site Kahuta left a dust mushroom which triggerred fears that the atomic plant had been attacked.

An American bomb disposal squad is now in Islamabad to assist the authorities in defusing live explosives which could still be left at the site of the blast.

Sri Lanka

Alleged Bomber of Parliament Arrested

BK091211 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Ajith Kumara, the parliamentary employee wanted by the police in connection with the bomb explosion in Parliament in August last year was arrested last night. Senior DIG [Deputy Inspector General] Leo Perera told LANKA PUWATH that Ajith Kumara was arrested at Nawula in Matale on a (?trailer) at 2100 [1530 GMT] following information given by the public. Mr Perera said that a search was now on for Ajith Kumara's wife and his child. The arrest last night was made by the OIC [Officer in Command] Nawula police and a team of CID [Criminal Investigation Department] officials from Colombo.

The bomb attack in Parliament was an attempt on the life of the president, the prime minister, and ministers of the government parliamentary group attending a meeting in a [word indistinct] room.

Earlier this week, an ex-sailor allegedly confessed to the killing of UNP chairman, Harsha Abewardene, last 22 December. Police also told LANKA PUWATH that a vital breakthrough was expected during the next 24 hours in their investigation into the death of DIG Terrence Perera.

Indian Forces Continue Search for Prabhakaran
BK111005 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0931 GMT 11 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 April (LANKA PUWATH)—The IPKF is now engaged in clearing up the Northern and Eastern Provinces of LTTE terrorists, who have been described in intelligence reports, as being low of morale.

Informed sources told LANKA PUWATH that the IPKF, which earlier launched a massive operation codenamed Vajra [Lightning] in the Mullaitivu, Mannar and an area north of Trincomalee, which completed a triangle, to capture remaining LTTE cadres, have launched a new operation, Viraat [Giant], east of the main Colombo-Jaffna highway close to Elephant Pass and another operation codenamed Trishul [Trident] on the west of the northern sector, is now on.

These areas, which are covered with dense forest, are believed to be the roaming grounds of LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his bodyguards.

Meanwhile reports from the east state that, while LTTE leader Karuna is in hiding, the Batticaloa area leader Regan, and his Lieutenant Dias were reported to have contacted the IPKF and expressed dissatisfaction of the leadership of Prabhakaran and his current actions.